

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, February 25, 2014



CHEAP SHOT

Govs. Peter Shumlin of Vermont, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, John Hickenlooper of Colorado, and Jay Nixon of Missouri walk to a news conference after meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, Feb. 24, 2014. Obama has advocated for minimum wage increases during the winter meetings of the National Governors Association. (Gabiella Demczuk/The New York Times)

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A Usually Bipartisan Affair Brings Out The Claws



GRAND CHILDREN'S PARADE A COLORFUL OCCASION FOR ALL!

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Canada: Pre-inspection of US-bound trucks begins

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

FORT ERIE, Ontario (AP) —

U.S. customs officers began inspecting U.S.-bound cargo trucks in Canada on Monday under a pilot program intended to relieve congestion at one of the border's busiest commercial crossings.

Authorities will watch to see whether pre-inspecting trucks on the roomier Canadian side of the Peace Bridge will reduce wait times and pollution-causing idling on the 86-year-old span between Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo.

The bridge handled 1.2 million truck trips and more than \$40 billion in trade last year, making it the third-

busiest truck crossing on the U.S.-Canada border. The three-lane span also saw more than 4.7 million passenger cars, more than any other port of entry.

With the U.S. side of the bridge lacking space to increase capacity, lawmakers have for several years wanted to shift some inspections to Canada. But they faced a myriad of jurisdictional and other obstacles, including objections to armed U.S. officers working in Canada, which only recently armed its border officers.

"The reaction of most people was to throw up their hands and say let's forget about it, and we persisted," Sen. Charles Schumer

of New York said at a news conference attended by Deputy Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Canada's minister of public safety and emergency preparedness, Steven Blaney. "We just had to keep showing people how important this was to our mutual economy. That's the bottom line here."

The test program is the second phase of a pilot called for in the Beyond the Border Action Plan signed by President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in December 2011.

Phase 1 got underway in June at the Pacific Highway Crossing in Blaine, Washing-

ton, to test the feasibility of certain technology and procedures.

The second phase will test the effect on wait times and border congestion.

Under the voluntary program, trucks equipped with transponders are inspected in Canada. Once in the U.S., the pre-inspected vehicles are directed into an enforcement booth where drivers see either a green light, signaling they've been cleared, or a red light requiring them to stop for a secondary inspection.

Under the system, which keeps enforcement on the U.S. side, drivers do not know until they get to the light whether they have been flagged. □

Kremlin: Ukraine volatility threatens Russian interests

STEVEN LEE MYERS

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MOSCOW - Russia ratcheted up its anger over the new government in neighboring Ukraine on Monday, questioning the legitimacy of the interim authorities and accusing them of using dictatorial and "sometimes terrorist methods" to usurp power and silence dissent in the country's Russian-speaking south and east.

The escalating criticism from Moscow, from Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and the Foreign Ministry, provided the strongest signals yet that Russia may not easily accept the political changes wrought by the political convulsions in Ukraine, where President Viktor Yanukovich was deposed over the weekend following the mass killings of protesters last week.

Adding to the tensions, the top Russian and NATO commanders conferred by phone Monday, Russia's Interfax news agency reported. It quoted the Defense Ministry as saying that Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the chief of general staff, spoke with Gen. Philip Breedlove, the commander of NATO in Europe, and the "two sides expressed concern over the situation in Ukraine."

Medvedev suggested that economic agreements with Ukraine could be renegotiated and declared that instability there was "a real threat to our interests and to our citizens' lives and health."

Russia's leadership has made its anger over the popular uprising in Ukraine clear from the beginning of the crisis, but Medvedev's remarks were the most extensive Russian reaction since Yanukovich fled Kiev, Ukraine's capital, on Saturday.

"Strictly speaking, today there is no one to talk to there," Medvedev said in remarks reported by Interfax.

"The legitimacy of a whole host of government bodies is raising huge doubts." □

Venezuelan opposition leader to sit out meeting

BEN FOX

C. SHERMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A meeting billed as a "national dialogue" for local and state officials in troubled Venezuela convened Monday without the

las Maduro amid the turmoil that has engulfed the country in recent weeks.

Capriles did not say whether he would also sit out a national peace conference called by the president for Wednesday. Capriles, governor of wealthy Miranda

"I am not going to make Nicolas Maduro look good ... That is what they want, that I go there as if the country was absolutely normal," he said.

Capriles also said he would not participate while another opposition leader,

side Caracas on charges that include incitement for organizing a mass opposition rally Feb. 12 that was followed by clashes that resulted in three deaths and set off waves of unrest that have roiled Venezuela ever since.

His wife, Lillian Tintori, said Lopez believes the time is not right for members of the opposition to sit down with Maduro.

Lopez "thinks that Venezuela is not going to stop, that the discontent is nationwide, that it is a little late to call for peace," she said following a news conference to announce a march Wednesday by opposition women.

"Look at the statements from Nicolas Maduro, every time he speaks he insults us, he speaks with aggression, speaks with hate," Tintori told The Associated Press.

Monday's session of the Federal Government Council was a previously scheduled meeting of all Venezuela's mayors and governors to discuss social and economic problems. At a special meeting of the group in January, following the slaying of a prominent actress with her husband in a robbery, Capriles and Maduro shook hands in a rare showing of cooperation. □



People walk in front of a burning barricade blocking the highway in Chacao, Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014. Traffic has come to a halt in parts of the Venezuelan capital because of barricades set up by opposition protesters across major thoroughfares. The protests are part of a wave of anti-government demonstrations that have swept Venezuela since Feb. 12 and have resulted in at least 10 deaths.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

most prominent opposition leader.

Gov. Henrique Capriles, the opposition candidate in the last two presidential elections, said he would not attend the meeting that was to include President Nico-

state, told reporters that going to Monday's meeting would appear as an endorsement for a government that he says has engaged in "repression" as troops and police have clashed with protesters.

Leopoldo Lopez, remains jailed along with dozens of others who have taken part in anti-government protests.

Lopez, a former mayor of a district in the capital, is being held in a military jail out-

White House: Yanukovich not Ukraine head

LARA JAKES

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Obama administration said Monday that Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich is not actively leading the country as U.S. officials began preparing for a potential aid package to help foster stability for a new government in the capital of Kiev.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the administration believes the Ukrainian parliament has lawfully elected a new speaker, Oleksandr Turchinov, who has been acting as the government's interim leader in the wake of the wave of deadly protests that prompted Yanukovich to flee Kiev. Carney said Yanukovich's whereabouts were not known, although he reportedly was on the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, a pro-Russian area in Ukraine.

"While he was a democratically elected leader, his actions have undermined his legitimacy, and he is not actively leading the country at present," Carney told reporters.

Carney said the United States was prepared to help Ukraine regain economic stability by providing support that complements assistance from the International Monetary Fund.

It's not known how much money the U.S. would be willing to send to Kiev, but officials said a transitional government must be in place before any aid is provided. Ukraine's economy is plummeting amid the tumult, and Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew were scheduled to meet with political, business and civil society leaders during a series of meetings in Kiev over the next two days. Top European Union officials are already there. Congress must also approve any U.S. aid package, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said, and several lawmakers on Monday signaled their support for assistance. □

US defense chief proposes big cuts for Army

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Monday proposed shrinking the U.S. Army to its smallest size in 74 years, closing military bases and making other military-wide savings as part of a broad reshaping after more than a decade of war.

Hagel outlined his vision in a speech at the Pentagon, a week before President Barack Obama is to submit his 2015 budget plan to Congress.

Hagel said that U.S. forces must adjust to the reality of smaller budgets, even as he asserted that the United States faces a more volatile, more unpredictable world that requires a more nimble military.

"We are repositioning to focus on the strategic challenges and opportunities that will define our future: new technologies, new centers of power and a world that is growing more volatile, more unpredictable and in some instances more threatening to the United States," he said.

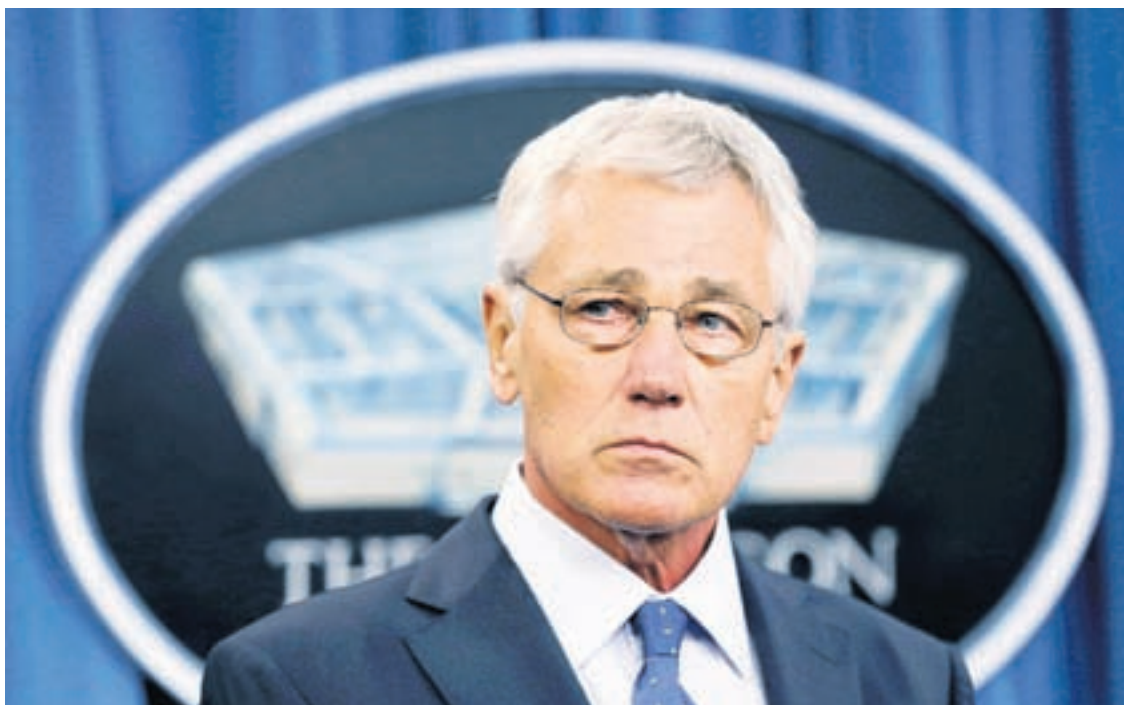
Under the Hagel plan, which Congress could change, the active-duty Army would shrink from its current 522,000 soldiers to between 440,000 and 450,000. That would make it the smallest since just before the U.S. entered World War II.

Hagel said Obama's bud-

get proposal will include a government-wide "Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative" that would provide the Pentagon with \$26 billion on top of the \$496 billion it is due to receive

Hagel said the administration will propose a new round of domestic military base closings in 2017, while noting that Congress has rejected such requests in recent years.

become accustomed to during more than a decade of war. He said many have the misperception that the Army is no longer busy. "People tend to think that the Army is out



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel listens during a news conference at the Pentagon, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, where he recommended shrinking the Army to its smallest size since the buildup to U.S. involvement in World War II in an effort to balance postwar defense needs with budget realities.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

get proposal will include a government-wide "Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative" that would provide the Pentagon with \$26 billion on top of the \$496 billion it is due to receive in 2015 under terms of the budget deal passed by the Congress two months ago. Among the bolder moves in Hagel's proposal is the elimination of the Air Force's fleet of A-10 aircraft as well as its venerable U-2 spy planes, as well as reductions in the size of the Army National Guard. Those moves are expected to draw some opposition in Congress.

Army leaders have been saying for months that they expect their service to shrink as the nation prepares to end its combat role in Afghanistan this year.

Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, said recently that whatever the future size of the Army, it must adapt to conditions that are different from what many soldiers have

of Iraq and Afghanistan, and there is not much going on," he said Jan. 23 at an Army forum. "The Army is not standing still. The Army is doing many, many, many things in order for us to shape the future environment and prevent conflict around the world."

The last time the active-duty Army was below 500,000 was in 2005, when it stood at 492,000. □

Rep. John Dingell to retire after nearly 60 years

ASHLEY PARKER

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WASHINGTON — Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., the longest-serving member of Congress in history, announced Monday that he would not seek re-election at the end of his current term. Dingell's retirement, first announced by Detroit newspapers and confirmed by Democratic leadership aides, will come at the end of this year — the end of his 29th full term — and represents the end of a historic tenure in the House that began in 1955. That year, Dingell, at the age of 29,

succeeded his father after he died. Dingell, 87, who amassed considerable power as the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, in June became the longest-serving member of Congress with 20,997 days as a representative. Until then, the record had been held by Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W. Va. Dingell has served under 11 presidents.

In a statement released Monday, Dingell said: "Around this time every two years, my wife, Deborah, and I confer on the question of whether I will

seek re-election. My standards are high for this job. I put myself to the test and have always known that when the time came that I felt I could not live up to my own personal standard for a member of Congress, it would be time to step aside for someone else to represent this district. That time has come."

Dingell asserted jurisdiction over vast expanses of federal policy as the intimidating chairman of the energy committee. In 2008, his fellow Democrats ousted him from the committee chairmanship, where he had

reigned as the top Democrat for nearly 30 years.

Dingell, 6 feet 3 inches tall, had grown stooped in his later years. But Dingell said his retirement had as much to do with the changing nature of the body in which he served as with any health concerns.

He had recently begun to bemoan the current culture of Congress — its members' inability to work together and compromise — and in an interview with The Detroit News, he was even more pointed: "I find serving in the House to be obnoxious." □

A usually bipartisan affair brings out the claws

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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WASHINGTON - It is definitely an election year in Washington.

The annual meeting of the nation's governors at the White House is usually the most bipartisan of affairs: The president praises the governors. The governors talk about solutions. Everyone grins broadly as the cameras click away.

But Monday, Gov. Bobby Jindal, R-La., veered off the script while standing on the driveway in front of the West Wing. Just moments after leaving a private meeting with Obama and his fellow governors, Jindal

interrupted a happy-talk news conference with a partisan attack.

"The Obama economy is now the minimum wage economy," Jindal said when it was his time at the microphone.

As his colleagues stood, appearing somewhat amazed, Jindal ripped into the president, saying he should approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline and take other steps to improve the economy.

He accused Obama of "waving the white flag of surrender."

Jindal's comments prompted an immediate crack in the veneer of coopera-



National Governors Association (NGA) Chair Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, center, speaks to reporters outside the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, following a meeting between President Barack Obama and members of the NGA. From left are, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Fallin, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, and Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

tive spirit. Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, D-Conn., erupted, accusing Jindal of being overtly partisan.

"That's the most insane statement I've ever heard," Malloy said, prompting some immediate partisan arguing from the dozen or so governors assembled just steps from the Oval Office.

At the White House press briefing Monday afternoon, Jay Carney, the White House press secretary, said: "The president is trying to create a national economy where the minimum wage is \$10.10 an hour. Perhaps Governor Jindal prefers a Governor Jindal economy at \$7.25 an hour, but the president certainly doesn't."

Earlier in the morning, Obama had downplayed the differences he has with some of the nation's Republican governors. In remarks to the state officials in the State Dining Room,

Obama said that his administration wants to "work with you" on the country's issues.

"At the state level you guys are governed by practical considerations," Obama said. "You want to do right by your people and you see how good policy impacts your citizens, and you see how bad policy impacts your citizens, and that means that there's less room for posturing and politics, and more room for getting stuff done."

But the president did not shy away from restating his priorities, many of which are fiercely opposed by Republican officials: an increase in the minimum wage, more money for preschool and continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

And with midterm elections right around the corner, it was perhaps inevitable that the bipartisan sheen would quickly be washed away. In his opening remarks, Obama joked about the ever-present politics in the nation's capital.

"I enjoyed watching some of you with your eyes on higher office size up the drapes - and each other," the president said, prompting laughter in the room. □

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US Supreme Court seems divided in climate case

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court appeared divided on Monday over the sole Obama administration program already in place to limit power plant and factory emissions of gases blamed for global warming.

The justices took on a small and complicated piece of the politically charged issue of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in an extended argument that included references to Dunkin' Donuts stores, football games and light bulbs. The examples were meant to illustrate the vast potential reach of the program, in its critics' view, or its limited nature, as the administration argued.

The court's liberal justices seemed comfortable with the scope of an Environmental Protection Agency permitting program that applies to companies that want to expand facilities or build new ones that would increase overall pollution. Under the program, the companies must evaluate ways to reduce the carbon they release. Carbon diox-

ide is the chief greenhouse gas.

However, conservative

vote.

One potentially narrow outcome would preserve



This photo shows Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Supreme Court appeared divided on Monday over the sole Obama administration program already in place to limit power plant and factory emissions of gases blamed for global warming. The presence of McConnell in the courtroom underscored the political stakes in President Barack Obama's high-profile effort to deal with global warming — a policy Obama is pursuing after failing to persuade Congress to enact climate change legislation. McConnell is facing a tough re-election fight in which he refers often to the administration's assault on the coal industry in Kentucky and elsewhere.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

members of the bench indicated they're skeptical of the EPA's authority, with Justice Anthony Kennedy as the probable decisive

the bulk of the program for facilities that already emit other pollutants that are regulated by the EPA.

Opponents of the program at issue concede that the case does not involve EPA's proposal of first-time national standards for new power plants or its anticipated proposed regulations for existing plants, expected this summer. It will then move on to other large stationary sources such as factories.

The case comes to the court as President Barack Obama, a Democrat, is stepping up his use of executive authority to act on environmental and other matters when Congress doesn't, or won't. Opponents of the EPA's program have called it a power grab of historic proportions. Republicans have objected strenuously to the administration's decision to push ahead with the regulations after Congress failed to pass climate legislation, and after the administration of President George W. Bush resisted such steps. Both sides agree that it would have been better to deal with climate change through legislation.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, arguing for the ad-

ministration, urged the court to leave the permitting program in place. "This is an urgent problem. Every year that passes, the problem gets worse and the problem for future generations gets worse," Verrilli said.

In 2012, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit concluded that the EPA was "unambiguously correct" in using existing federal law to address global warming.

Kennedy joined the court's four liberal justices in the 2007 ruling in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that said the agency has the authority under the Clean Air Act to limit emissions of greenhouse gases from vehicles.

Two years later, with Obama in office, the EPA concluded that the release of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases endangered human health and welfare. The administration used that finding to extend its regulatory reach beyond automobiles and develop national standards for large stationary sources. □

More radiation is detected near New Mexico nuke site

CARLSBAD, New Mexico (AP) — More airborne radiation has been detected in New Mexico from a leak at the first underground U.S. nuclear waste dump.

The U.S. Department of Energy said Monday the results are from samples collected last week at numerous air monitoring stations at and around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad.

Last week, U.S. officials confirmed the first-ever leak at

the facility. It stores plutonium-contaminated waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory and other government nuclear sites.

The results are consistent with the kinds of waste stored at the plant, but officials say there's no public health threat.

Waste shipments to the site were halted earlier this month after a truck caught fire underground. Officials say they don't think the incidents are related. □

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Arizona: 3 Republican senators urge veto of bill

BOB CHRISTIE
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Three Republican Arizona state senators who voted for a bill allowing business owners with strongly held religious beliefs to refuse service to gays sent a letter to Gov. Jan Brewer on Monday urging her to veto the legislation. The legislation has set off a firestorm across the U.S. from gay rights backers

Sens. Bob Worsley, Adam Driggs and Steve Pierce sent their letter urging the veto just days after they joined the entire 17-member Senate Republican caucus in voting for the bill. "I was not comfortable with the vote," Worsley told The Associated Press. "I have not been comfortable with this for some time." Arizona's two republican U.S. senators, Jeff

courts and simply clarifies existing state law. CAP President Cathi Herrod is urging Brewer to sign the legislation and deriding what she called "fear-mongering" from its opponents. The bill is expected to be formally transmitted to Brewer as early as Monday, and she'll then have five days to act. Brewer doesn't comment on pending legislation,



Opponents of the SB1062, a religious freedom bill, Ryan Ebersole, of Mesa, and Rev. Stephen Govett, of Glendale, urged Gov. Brewer to veto the bill during a protest rally at the state Capitol. (AP Photo/Cheryl Evans)

and politicians of all stripes. The bill allows any business, church or person to cite the law as a defense in any action brought by the government or individual claiming discrimination. Opponents call it a license to discriminate against gays. Prominent Republicans have pressed Gov. Jan Brewer for a veto, including Sen. John McCain, a former presidential candidate who represents Arizona.

Flake and McCain, are urging a veto, as are business groups like the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry. McCain weighed in Monday with a tweet saying "I hope Gov. Brewer will veto #SB1062." The bill is being pushed by the Center for Arizona Policy, a social conservative group that opposes abortion and gay marriage. The group says the proposal is needed to protect against increasingly activist federal

but she vetoed a similar measure last year. That action, however, came during an unrelated political standoff, and it's not clear whether she would support or reject this plan. But with the business community lining up against the plan, Brewer could have cover for a veto. She's worked hard to return Arizona's economy to pre-recession levels with business-friendly incentives and tax cuts.□

GOP sees rare re-election challenges from the ranks

JEREMY W. PETERS
© 2014 New York Times

DALLAS — There is the Tea Party Patriots "Fire the Speaker" petition, which is not to be confused with the FreedomWorks "Fire the Speaker" petition, or the websites variously urging people to "Fire John Boehner" and "Pledge to Fire Boehner."

A new one, "Replace the Speaker," appeared last week after Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, allowed a vote on raising the country's debt ceiling to move forward. Katrina Pierson would sign them all, but she hardly needs to put her name on a petition to validate her anti-Boehner credentials. Pierson, a local Tea Party leader here who has never sought public office, is aggressively campaigning as an underdog to unseat one of the speaker's top lieutenants in the House, Rep. Pete Sessions, a nine-term Republican who is chairman of the influential Rules Committee.

"If we were to take out a sitting, two-decade member of the leadership, that's massive," she told about three dozen people who came to hear her speak in the living room of one of her supporters in the exclusive University Park enclave.

Pierson, 37, is a personification of how growing unease among the most passionate and motivated conservatives is complicating the re-election campaigns of many of the highest-ranking Republican leaders in Washington. Across the country, candidates like Pierson are waging what is perhaps the most forceful challenge in generations that either political party has seen from within its own ranks. "It's very uncommon to challenge incumbents - period. So this is truly unusual," said Allan Lichtman, a professor of history at American University who has written about fissures in the conservative movement. The odds for an upset in any of the primaries this year are small. But the election will test whether the Tea Party, a force that has helped Republicans topple Democrats in local races across the country, has become more self-destructive than advantageous. In the House, in addition to Sessions, leaders being challenged from the right include Eric Cantor of Virginia, the majority leader, and Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee. In all, six Republican committee chairmen in the House face contested primaries. In the Senate, the No. 1 and No. 2 Republicans are fighting off Tea Party-inspired challengers. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the minority leader, will square off in May against Matt Bevin, a Louisville businessman who has endorsements from activist groups like Senate Conservatives Fund and FreedomWorks. In Texas, John Cornyn, the minority whip, faces an opponent in March, Steve Stockman, who represents a district east of Houston and has accused Cornyn of being a liberal.□



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Obama to act on Keystone in next couple of months

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama told U.S. state governors at a White House meeting Monday that he expects to decide on the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada in the next couple of months, two Republican governors said.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, who chairs the National Governors Association and supports Keystone, said she asked Obama about the pipeline at a meeting with about 40 governors.

Obama told her he expects a decision "in the next couple of months," but didn't offer a specific timetable, Fallin and Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman said. Obama's comments were the most specific he has been in recent months about the 1,100-mile (1,900 kilometer) pipeline, which has become a high-profile symbol of the political debate over climate change. Pipeline supporters, including lawmakers from both parties and many business and labor groups, say the project would create thousands of jobs and reduce the need for oil imports from Venezuela and other politically turbulent countries.

Opponents say the pipeline would carry "dirty oil" that contributes to global warming, and they also worry about possible spills.

Heineman, who supports the pipeline, said he was "pleased that we're finally going to get to a decision" on a project that has lingered for more than five years.

"This is very significant. It's been at least a year since I sent my approval to the president for our particular route (through Nebraska), and it's taken even longer than that on the federal level," Heineman said in an interview.

White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said he does not provide details on "private conversations that the president has."

Review of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline remains at the State Department, Carney said.

Obama's comment comes less than a week after the project was thrown into apparent legal limbo, when a Nebraska judge overturned a state law that approved the pipeline route through that state. Judge Stephanie Stacy ruled that Nebraska's five-member Public Service Commission should have decided the route. □

US Financial Front: Economists divided on Fed pullback

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Business economists are almost equally divided over whether the Federal Reserve will pare its bond

es in the fourth quarter. About 42 percent said they thought the Fed would finish in 2015 or later.

At each of its last two policy meetings, the Fed cut

Cutting back on the bond purchases and the prospect of further cutbacks has already prompted mortgage rates to rise.

Most respondents thought the Fed would wait until 2015 to start raising its key short-term interest rate above the current level near zero. Yellen told Congress earlier this month that the Fed would keep the rate near zero "well past" the time the unemployment rate falls below 6.5 percent, as long as inflation remains low. The unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in January, a five-year low.

About 36 percent of respondents thought the Fed would raise the federal funds rate in the first half of 2015, while 37 percent thought the rate hike would come in the second half. Just 12 percent thought a hike would occur in the second half of this year, while 15 percent thought it would happen in 2016 or later.

As for government spending, 21 percent thought fiscal policy was "too stimulative," while 37 percent thought it was "about right." About 39 percent thought fiscal policy was "too restrictive."

Nearly all the respondents — or 83 percent — did not think Congress should put a permanent cap on the debt limit at its current level around \$17 trillion. □



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. Business economists are almost equally divided over whether the Federal Reserve will pare its bond purchases at the current pace through year's end or pause to let the economy recover further.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

purchases at the current pace through year's end or pause to let the economy recover further.

The views were unveiled Monday by the National Association for Business Economics. The NABE conducted its twice-a-year survey of 230 members between Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, before Janet Yellen's first appearance before Congress as Fed chair.

About 43 percent of NABE members said they thought the Fed would complete its pullback in bond purchas-

bond purchases by \$10 billion to the current pace of \$65 billion a month. There are seven meetings left in 2014. The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to drive down loan rates to stimulate spending and economic growth.

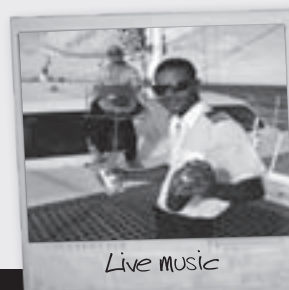
A majority of those surveyed agreed with the Fed's gradual end to its accommodative stance, with 57 percent saying current monetary policy is "about right." About 37 percent thought it was "too stimulative."

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Seafaring drug smugglers challenge US Coast Guard

ELLIOT SPAGAT
JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — While security has tightened at the U.S. border, drug smugglers are increasingly turning to the high seas. The area where boats were seized off California

up the Pacific coast to the U.S., deep into California. It's unclear if Guzman's arrest will hinder the maritime runs.

Meanwhile, budget cuts have hit one of the lead U.S. law enforcement agencies on international waters — the Coast Guard,

ica that were tracked by U.S. intelligence in cocaine-trafficking corridors in the Pacific and Caribbean were stopped last year, the Coast Guard's top officer, Adm. Robert Papp, told The Associated Press. "Our interdictions are down 30 percent from the

to 81,000 pounds (36,740 kilograms).

Defense officials have warned the cuts would hamper efforts to reach President Barack Obama's goal of intercepting 40 percent of the illicit drug shipments flowing into the region by 2015. Fighting drug

back on resources on the water," said Cmdr. Chris German, deputy chief of law enforcement for the 11th District, which stretches from Oregon to Peru.

Sea smuggling has not grabbed the attention of lawmakers like the flow of illegal goods across the land border, where billions of dollars have been spent on tightening security.

Part of the reason is the challenge to patrolling the ocean.

With more than 42,000 active-duty members, the Coast Guard is assisted in the drug war by other U.S. agencies. It also works closely with other nations, but that help only goes so far. Bilateral treaties sometimes limit waters it can patrol, and some of the foreign navies are small and underequipped.

U.S. officials, for instance, cannot venture into Mexican waters without prior permission and will stop a chase and alert Mexican authorities if suspected boats cross into that territory. Treaties with nations such as Colombia allow U.S. authorities more latitude. "The land border is a much simpler border to defend. You can put up fences. You can put people out there. But it's a finite area. You know where your land starts and where it ends," Papp said. "When you go out into the maritime, it's huge."

The Coast Guard oversees 95,000 miles (152,800 kilometers) of coastline and 4.5 million square miles (11.66 million sq. kilometers) of maritime territory where the United States has rights. Off California, smuggling vessels are typically spotted by planes from the Coast Guard or a federal agency. □



This photo shows the crew of a 45 foot Coast Guard patrol boat runs through their pre-departure briefing in San Diego harbor in San Diego. With the drug war locking down land routes across Latin America and at the U.S. border, smugglers have been increasingly using large vessels to carry multi-ton loads of cocaine and marijuana hundreds of miles offshore where the lead federal agency with extensive law enforcement powers is the Coast Guard, a military service roughly the size of the New York Police Department. (AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi)

and the northwest coast of Mexico tripled during the 2013 fiscal year, which ended in September. Off South America, traffickers over the years have been traversing territory so big the continental United States could be dropped inside of it.

Mexico's Sinaloa cartel has been loading marijuana bales onto 50-foot vessels as far south as the Mexican port of Mazatlan — where its leader, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was captured early Saturday — and running them

the only U.S. military service able to make drug arrests hundreds of miles (kilometers) offshore. To meet automatic federal budget cuts, it reduced its operating costs by 25 percent in 2013. It also lost help from U.S. Navy ships on drug missions off Latin America that were decommissioned and not replaced because of cutbacks, or sent elsewhere because of Washington's new military focus.

Only a third of suspected drug smuggling boats or aircraft out of South Amer-

ica that were tracked by U.S. intelligence in cocaine-trafficking corridors in the Pacific and Caribbean were stopped last year, the Coast Guard's top officer, Adm. Robert Papp, told The Associated Press. "Our interdictions are down 30 percent from the

year before, when we had more assets out there, so that's an indicator to me that as soon as we start pulling assets away, they're running more drugs and they're getting through," Papp said. U.S. authorities stopped some 194,000 pounds (87,900 kilograms) of cocaine last fiscal year — more than 40,000 pounds (18,140 kilograms) less than in 2012, according to Coast Guard statistics. Marijuana seizures dipped between 2012 and 2013 from 124,000 pounds (56,240 kilograms)

traffickers at sea is crucial because small aircraft used by traffickers can only carry about a ton of drugs versus large boats that can cart up to 20 tons of cocaine or more, authorities said. As much as 20 percent of the cocaine moving through South America ends up in the United States. Large amounts also travel across the ocean into Africa, providing funding for insurgents and drug traffickers, and then on up into Europe.

"We've had to cut back in hours and funding, and cut

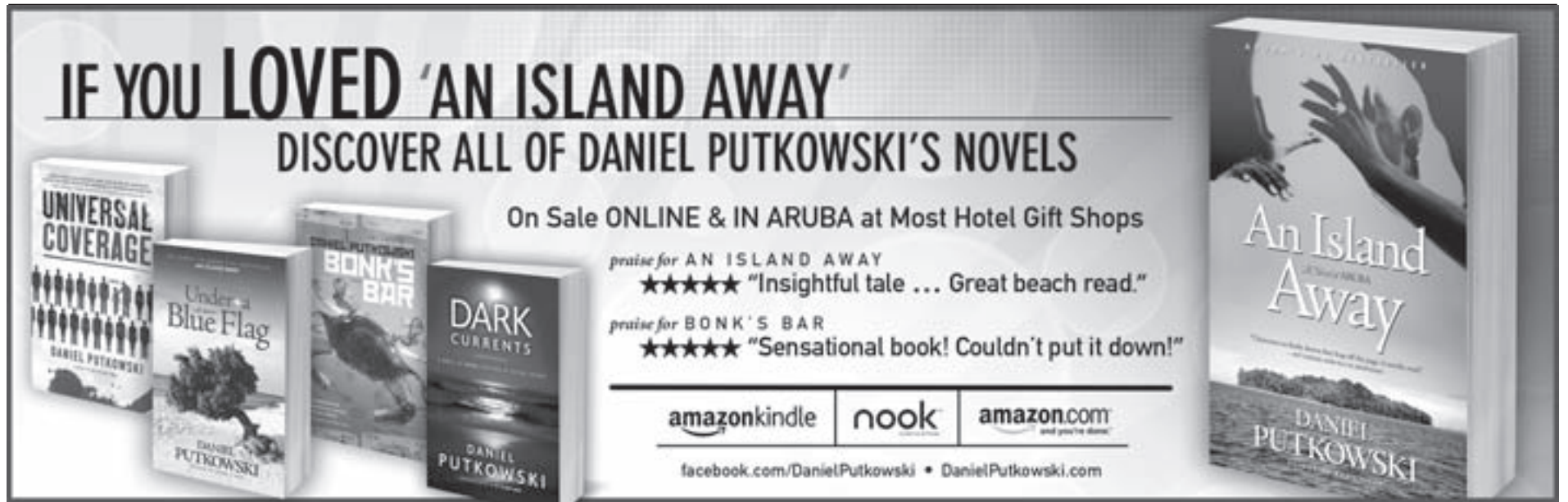
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Ukraine:

Acting officials accuse ex-president of mass murder

David M. Herszenhorn
 © 2014 New York Times

KIEV, Ukraine - Ukraine's acting interior minister said Monday that authorities were in pursuit of the ousted president, Viktor Yanukovich, who was believed to be in Crimea in the south of the country, and that he would be arrested on charges of mass murder in the killings of dozens of anti-government protesters last week.

The minister, Arsen Avakov, who was appointed by parliament on Saturday, wrote on his Facebook page that he was personally involved in the manhunt and had traveled to the Crimean city of Sevastopol on Sunday night hoping to intercept Yanukovich at the airport there, but that the deposed president had not turned up as expected.

He said Yanukovich had then fled in an unknown direction, traveling by car with a diminished security detail.

The pursuit of Yanukovich, a man now widely despised even by many of his former supporters, gripped the nation Monday, as the parliament continued its efforts to rebuild the government, with hopes of appointing an acting prime minister and having the rest of a provisional government Tuesday.

With former Prime Minister Yulia V. Tymoshenko, freed from prison on Saturday, saying she did not want to be considered for the post, speculation on the premiership focused on her

ally, Arseniy P. Yatsenyuk, who has been a leader of the anti-Yanukovich protests since they began in late November.

Western officials on Monday continued to praise the developments in Ukraine saying that parliament had successfully filled a power vacuum, and that democratic institutions had functioned successfully. Russia, however, stepped up its criticism after recalling its ambassador from Kiev, the capital, on Sunday.

"Today, I see no legitimate Ukrainian partners for dialogue," the Russian prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, said in Sochi, Russia, a day after the close of the Winter Olympics, according to the Interfax news service. "If people crossing Kiev in black masks with Kalashnikov rifles are considered a government, it will be difficult for us to work with

such a government."

In fact, the security situation in the Ukrainian capital seemed to improve Monday, with regular law

enforcement bodies and some anti-government fighters sharing responsibility for guarding government buildings and di-

recting traffic. A sense of workaday calm seemed to return to the city, even as barricades still surrounded the main protest sites. □



Ukrainian sailors march in the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Sevastopol in the Crimea, Ukraine Monday, Feb. 24, 2014. Ukraine's acting government issued an arrest warrant Monday for President Viktor Yanukovich, accusing him of mass crimes against the protesters who stood up for months against his rule. Yanukovich himself has reportedly fled to pro-Russian Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in Ukraine.
 (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel visits Israel

IAN DEITCH
 Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday that she is visiting Israel with most of her new cabinet in order to show Germany's friendship with the Jewish state and that her country is working to secure the future of Israel. Merkel was speaking at an evening press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Germany is Israel's closest European ally and holds an annual joint Cabinet session with its Israeli counterparts. Of late however, ten-

sions with Europe, and also Germany, have risen over West Bank settlement policies. "We have come here with almost the whole of our new government and we wanted to show you in this way that this is indeed a very strong friendship," Merkel said in German and relayed in English through a translator.

Merkel said Germany has been working with Israel "shoulder to shoulder" over the past five decades "to secure the future of the state of Israel." She said that "part and parcel of the security of Israel is

the two state solution...a Jewish state of Israel and alongside it a Palestinian state." Standing at her side Netanyahu said the U.S. mediated peace talks, as well as international efforts to quell Iran's nuclear program, would figure prominently in his meetings with Merkel. Germany also belongs to a group of nations currently negotiating with Iran, Israel's arch foe and a particular nemesis for Netanyahu. "I would like to discuss ways to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons capability. I believe that this is the great-

est challenge to the security of the world," Netanyahu said.

He also said he wanted to discuss ways to advance peace efforts with the Palestinians.

"The people of Israel want peace, they want a real peace, they want a peace that ends the conflict that finally gets the Palestinians to recognize the Jewish state and one in which we have the necessary means of security to defend ourselves against any possible contingency in this turbulent Middle East," Netanyahu said. □

Italy's Renzi asks Parliament to support him

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian Premier Matteo Renzi pitched for support in Parliament Monday ahead of mandatory confidence votes on his brand-new government but offered scant details to back his bet he can get the country back to work again while the last three premiers failed.

Renzi leads a broad coalition including his dominant center-left Democrats, centrists, and conservative forces which used to back Silvio Berlusconi, the scan-

dal-scarred ex-premier.

In the Senate, Renzi should be able to muster a slim majority on his three-day-old government.

But there has been loud grumbling among his own Democrats over Renzi's heavy-handed tactics to wrest the premiership from fellow Democrat Enrico Letta. His predecessor led a coalition with the same tense partners for 10 months, but Renzi engineered his ouster after industrialists and union leaders grew impatient with tentative efforts to energize

the economy after years of stagnation.

Renzi said debt-laden Italy must heal its public finances not because Germany's Angela Merkel or the European Central Bank chief want that, but because "it's our children" who seek a future. He said Italy must slash payroll taxes to encourage hiring, but didn't say how Italy would recoup the lower tax revenues.

The new premier faces "pressure to show swift signs of progress on his ambitious reform program," given that unemployment

for January is likely to have stayed at 12.7 percent, said CMC Markets UK analyst Michael Hewson ahead of the speech. Youth unemployment hovers at 40 percent.

Noting the tepid Senate applause, Senator Paola Taverna echoed other opposition leaders when she said Renzi offered "nothing concrete."

In the second confidence vote, in the lower Chamber of Deputies Tuesday, Renzi's coalition has a comfortable majority. □

Moscow courts send 7 to prison for protest rally

LAURA MILLS

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian court on Monday handed down prison sentences of up to four years to seven anti-Putin protesters, including a 22-year-old student who investigators said threw an "unidentified yellow object of spherical shape" at a line of riot police. He insisted it was just a lemon.

Yaroslav Belousov and the six others were among 28 people rounded up after a 2012 protest on the eve of Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a third presidential term. Clashes broke out after police restricted access to Bolotnaya Square, across the river from the Kremlin, where the protesters had permission to gather.

Hundreds of their supporters gathered outside the courtroom to condemn the trial and the Kremlin's crackdown on opposition since Putin returned to the presidency. As the judge read out sentences, chants of "Shame!" drifted into the courtroom.

About 200 people, including two members of the punk band Pussy Riot who spent nearly two years in prison for their own anti-Putin protest, were briefly detained by police outside court.

Some of them, including members of Pussy Riot and opposition leader Alexei Navalny, were later detained again later Monday when protesters attempted to hold an unsanctioned rally outside the Kremlin.

Moscow police said they detained 420 of about 500 demonstrators there.

The lawyer for Belousov, who was sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison, said he believed the harsh punishment was in part a Kremlin reaction to the upheaval in neighboring Ukraine.

"I get tons of Twitter messages that say: you must be punished for Maidan, you must go to jail for Maidan," lawyer Dmitry Agranovsky said, referring to the square in Kiev that became a symbol of Ukraine's protest movement. □

Ugandan president signs anti-gay law

ALAN COWELL

© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - Brushing aside Western threats and outrage, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda significantly strengthened Africa's anti-gay movement on Monday, signing into law a bill imposing harsh sentences for homosexual acts, including life imprisonment in some cases, according to government officials.

The move came weeks after Museveni's Nigerian counterpart, Goodluck Jonathan, took similar steps in his own country, threatening offenders with 14-year prison terms. The Ugandan law seemed even tougher, threatening life terms on charges including "aggravated homosexuality," meaning homosexual acts with a minor, a disabled person or someone infected with HIV.

"We Africans never seek to impose our view on others. If only they could let us alone," Museveni said, according to The Associated Press, alluding to Western pressure to reject the bill.

He signed the legislation at his official residence at Entebbe, near the capital, Kampala, in front of government officials, journalists and a team of Ugandan scientists who had said they found no genetic basis for homosexuality - a conclusion that Museveni cited in support of the new law, the AP said.

While Western gay-rights

campaigners have accused U.S. evangelical Christian groups of promoting anti-gay sentiment in Uganda, Museveni accused "arrogant and careless Western groups" of seeking to draw Ugandan

drew condemnation from rights groups and Ugandan activists.

"It's a gloomy day, not just for the gay community in Uganda but for all Ugandans who care about human rights, because this

wrote a letter to Parliament saying that lawmakers had made procedural errors in passing the bill and that an in-depth study was needed before it could be taken up again. Museveni said at the time that he would seek fur-



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni signs a new anti-gay bill that sets harsh penalties for homosexual sex, in Entebbe, Uganda Monday, Feb. 24, 2014. Museveni on Monday signed the controversial anti-gay bill into law, with penalties including 14 years in jail for first-time offenders and life imprisonment as the maximum penalty for "aggravated homosexuality", saying it is needed to deter what he called the West's "social imperialism" promoting homosexuality in Africa.

(AP Photo/Rebecca Vassie)

children into homosexuality.

The Ugandan government spokesman, Ofwono Opondo, said Museveni wanted to sign the bill "with the full witness of the international media to demonstrate Uganda's independence in the face of Western pressure and provocation." Opondo announced on Twitter that Museveni had signed the bill, which

law will affect everybody,"

Julian Peppe Onziema, an advocate for gay rights in Uganda, told Reuters.

The country's Parliament approved the law in December, saying it was aimed "at strengthening the nation's capacity to deal with emerging internal and external threats to the traditional heterosexual family."

Later that month, Museveni

ther expert opinions.

But this month, Museveni shifted position and said he would sign the bill, apparently bowing to strong conservative opinion among Ugandans.

Gay-rights activists in Uganda have vowed to oppose the legislation, which could jeopardize hundreds of millions of dollars in crucial Western development aid. □

Egypt's Cabinet resigns, sets stage for presidency

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's interim Cabinet resigned Monday in a surprise move that could pave the way for the nation's military chief to announce his widely anticipated plans to run for president in the spring.

The resignation, announced by Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi in a televised statement, came amid a wave of labor strikes over the government's failure to fix the economy and rising popular anger nearly a year after Islamist President Mohammed Morsi was ousted by the military. The Cabinet will remain in office in a caretaking capacity until a new one is formed.

Its resignation fueled speculation that the military chief, Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, will soon announce a presidential bid. The 59-year-old career infantry officer, who has been defense minister since Morsi named him to the Cabinet post in August

2012, has already secured the support of Egypt's top military body, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, to seek the presidency. Military and security officials said the British- and U.S.-trained el-Sissi has been working with a team of advisers on a program of action that he intends to announce when he declares his candidacy. Making the announcement against a backdrop of rising popular anger and harsh media criticism of el-Beblawi would not have looked good for el-Sissi.

El-Beblawi did not say why his Cabinet was resigning. His military-backed government was sworn in in July, less than two weeks after el-Sissi ousted Morsi.

El-Sissi has been increasingly acting in a presidential fashion.

He paid a highly publicized visit to Russia earlier this month, when he secured the Kremlin's blessing for his likely presidential bid and negotiated a large arms deal. Last week, his



Interim President Adly Mansour, right, shaking hands with Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi at the presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt. Egypt's interim prime minister Hazem el-Beblawi announced Monday the resignation of his Cabinet, a surprise move that could be designed in part to pave the way for the nation's military chief to leave his defense minister's post to run for president.

(AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

wife made her first public appearance since he became defense minister.

Intisar el-Sissi was seated next to him during a ceremony to honor senior officers.

Thousands of el-Sissi posters are plastered on walls and hoisted on lampposts

across much of the country. Songs praising him are played on radio and blare from coffee shops. He has often been likened to a lion and Arab nationalist leader Gamal Abdel-Nasser and portrayed as a savior who will bring strength and prosperity to Egypt.

A new constitution adopted in a referendum last month gives the military the exclusive right to pick the defense minister for the next two, four-year presidential terms. In Egypt, the defense minister is routinely the armed forces' commander in chief. □

Bailout inspectors back in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece and its international debt inspectors on Monday resumed talks on the austerity measures the country must make to keep receiving rescue loans. The government insisted a deal is "very close."

The officials from the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund — together known as the troika — were holding talks in Athens with Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras and other government officials. The officials entered the finance ministry using a side door amid jeers from dozens of demonstrators

who gathered outside the building, including laid-off government cleaning staff. The troika is pressing for sweeping changes in market practices and labor rules. The negotiations are seen as key to talks expected later this year on how to make Greece's massive national debt sustainable.

"We are in the final stages. We are very close to an agreement," government spokesman Simos Kedikoglou told private Mega television.

Greece's main opposition party, the left-wing Syriza, said the government should not meet with the troika officials. □

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Sochi cleans up as world leaves Olympics behind

TED ANTHONY
AP National Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — By the busload, the world's athletes and visitors rolled toward Sochi's airport and took off for home Monday, fresh from a Winter Games experience that many Russians pronounced a smashing success and that the Olympic movement's chief enthusiastically labeled a victory for the region and the host nation. "Yes! We did it!" one Olympic volunteer exulted as she darted into the night.

After 17 days of global sport and spotlight, Sochi ended the spirited chants of "Ro-ssi-ya! Ro-ssi-ya!" and started cleaning up.

Travelers through the region's airport, rebuilt completely for the games, reported briskly moving security lines and check-in times of anywhere from 10 minutes to three hours, depending on destination. On what was predicted to be the heaviest Olympic-related travel day, the transit situation seemed to come down to this: It was like a busy morning at any normal big-city airport.

By the Black Sea coastline, Olympic Park, which will be hosting events at the upcoming Paralympic Games, had cleared out. Like the city of Sochi around it, the park felt deserted except for the legions of volunteers in multicolored

patchwork jackets who still patrolled the area. Most security barriers remained in place in anticipation of the Paralympics, but security was noticeably more relaxed.

the games opened and closed with vigorous (if sometimes spotty) security and no sign of any potentially violent activity.

When it came to logistics and sports, Russia outdid

pointed Putin and so many Russians.

"Russia has delivered on its promise," said Dmitry Chernyshenko, head of the Sochi organizing committee. The successes — and a visu-

fessional for 17 days, bustled loose, running around outside Fisht Stadium with whoops, hollers and squeals. Selfies gave way to enthusiastic group shots — and group hugs.

"Thank you for coming! Thank you for being here!" volunteers shouted to passing visitors as Olympic Park emptied out.

"Amazing. Look at this. Look at what we got done," said Viktor Virchenko, a heavily mustachioed folk dancer from nearby Stanitsa Leningradsкая who was cheerfully stalking Olympic Park early Monday in traditional woolen hat and 19th-century regalia. "I am very proud," he said.

IOC President Thomas Bach, closing the games Sunday night, eschewed the wording of predecessors that sometimes tried to assess the overall quality of a particular Olympics. Instead, he focused on calling them "the athletes' games" and spent many words praising both the region and Putin. Russia, Bach said, came through when it needed to.

"What took decades in other parts of the world was achieved here in Sochi in just seven years," he said.

Which raises the question: What happens to Sochi next, now that it has been effectively built up from scratch? After billions in investment and a world-class event pulled off successfully, it has a G-8 summit and Formula One racing just around the corner. But can it be a resort region with long-term viability, or will it — despite its mountains and water so conveniently close together — suffer the fate of some other former Olympic cities and struggle to bring the masses to its doorstep? Bach, for one, says it "definitely has a future" after a previous bid and two decades of preparation.

"Seeing now, 20 years after this transformation, it was really amazing," he said in the hours before the Olympics ended. □



A visitor poses on the Olympic rings after the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

These Winter Games, Russian President Vladimir Putin's political showpiece and bragging trophy, convened under storm clouds — international concerns about gay rights and fears of a terror attack among them. But athletes overwhelmingly chose not to use the Olympic stage to make any statements, and

itself. Beyond initial grumblings about unfinished hotels and stray dogs, the Olympic infrastructure performed close to flawlessly. And the athletes: The home team claimed 33 medals, its largest haul ever — even counting the Soviet Union days — and a far cry from the 2010 performance in Vancouver that disap-

ally rich closing-ceremony tour through Russian history that ended with a handoff to the next Winter Games host city, Pyeongchang in South Korea — produced a party-like-it's-1999 atmosphere across the finally chilly Olympic Park during Monday's early hours.

Young Sochi Games volunteers, restrained and pro-

Hospital of last resort in Pakistan faces closure

MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP) — Mohammed Aqeel spent weeks at home in Pakistan waiting for death after suffering a debilitating spinal cord injury in a car crash before friends suggested he come to St. Joseph's Hospice on the outskirts of the capital, Islamabad.

Now 13 years later, his life and those of some 40 others who live on its grounds might be changed forever as this hospital of last resort faces closure over its rising debts.

"I will helplessly weep and what else can I do?" Aqeel

asked, tears rolling down his face.

Since 1964, St. Joseph's Hospice has treated hundreds of maimed and sick patients, overwhelmingly Muslims, who had nowhere else to go even as Pakistan experienced two military coups, wars in neighboring Afghanistan and a dangerous rise in militancy. But as wealthy donors and foreign benefactors fled the violence and unrest, so too did the endowments the hospice relies on to treat some 100 patients who visit daily.

Pakistan's abysmal health care sector is starved for

money, the latest technology and drugs — and those who can't afford care have turned to St. Joseph's. The hospice has a monthly budget of about 1.5 million rupees — \$15,000 — but officials there say they have been facing a shortfall of half a million rupees (about \$5,000) a month.

They've borrowed money and cut costs as low as they can, but there's not much more they can do.

"Initially, we managed to handle the situation, but now the situation is alarming," said Margaret Walsh, an Irish nun who has run the facility as the chief admin-

istrator since 2009. "I feel pain when I think about the worst scenario of closing down the hospital."

Rising costs from ever-increasing utility bills has deeply affected St. Joseph's, said Rehmat Michael Hakim, chairman of the hospital's executive committee that oversees the functions of the hospice.

He said the hospice relies on generators during electricity outages to warm paralyzed patients.

"If we don't use electricity heaters in winter, the patients will die of cold," Hakim said. □



Grand Children's Parade a colorful occasion for all ages!



exciting parade began all the way inland at the Aruba Entertainment Center in Dakota, and winded its way down L.G. Smith Blvd to close at the former DOW Building across from Valero Blvd. The excited young people who made up the Grand Children's Parade are largely those of the families who actively participate in most of the major Carnival activities and events. Both participants and spectators alike had a fun-tastic time dancing



ORANJESTAD - Children big and small, with their families, friends, balloons and feathers in tow came out

in droves on Sunday for another fabulous Grand Children's Parade in Oranjestad – one of the many in

a procession of processions that make up what are Aruba's annual Carnival festivities. The colorful and

and enjoying the magic of the Children's Grand Parade! □



Mark Frances is General Manager of the Year for Radisson in the Americas

PALM BEACH - The General Manager of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa was surprised when he was called onto the stage at a recent corporate company affair and bestowed the ultimate honor, that of Manager of the Year for the Radisson Hotels & Resorts in the Americas. While he was surprised, his co-workers in Aruba were not, as over the last year as the General Manager of the Radisson's flagship resort here Frances has proved himself as an outstanding leader and motivator, winning the appreciation and admiration of both guests and colleagues. "Last evening I was greatly surprised," he said in an e-mail to the staff in Aruba, "by receiving such an honorable award, but please know that I am so proud of each and every one of you and would like to thank you for being a member of our Radisson Aruba Team, I could not have done it without you!"

Cymbi and the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary can use your help!

BRINGAMOSA - We would like to introduce you to Cymbi, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. A fortnight after our volunteers had captured her mother, Cymbi was caught. During those two weeks Cymbi stayed in the vicinity of the family that

had lured her mother into their garden. After a trailer had taken this donkey to the sanctuary, the reunion with her mother Orchid took place, a joyful occasion. At this moment Cymbi is probably expecting a baby; time will tell. It was quite stunning to see Orchid welcoming Cymbi as

Orchid had delivered a son two days after she came to the sanctuary. Normally a first-born is rejected by the mother at such a time. But in this case it was the opposite: mother Orchid started flourishing after the reunion with her mom. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip,

just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expen-



sive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this

friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please.

Beauty On The Beach

Tony Fix

is our beauty on the beach today

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Canada's Olympic hockey win could be NHL farewell

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Steve Yzerman was stuck in an elevator while the maple leaf flag was raised to the Bolshoy Ice Dome rafters Sunday.

The architect of Canada's dominant Olympic hockey team was disappointed to miss that magic moment after the team's unbeaten run through the Sochi Games to its second straight gold medal.

And though he's stepping down as Hockey Canada's Olympic executive director, Yzerman hopes he didn't miss his last chance to see the world's best players rewarded with gold.

"It's my opinion that this is great for hockey," Yzerman said. "We're trying to grow our sport. The Olympics is the biggest stage worldwide, for any sport. I'm hopeful that the NHL stays. I recognize there are a lot of issues, but I think this is tremendous for our game, and I believe it's tremendous for the National Hockey League."

The NHL is thinking seriously about abandoning the Olympics, which has hosted the world's best since 1998. For all the excitement,



Canada forwards Jonathan Tows, left, and Sidney Crosby, right, pose with their medals after beating Sweden 3-0 in the men's ice hockey gold medal game at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. Associated Press

and attention and phenomenal hockey in Sochi, several owners still seethe at their multimillion-dollar investments playing for free — and sometimes getting injured — while their arenas sit empty for three weeks in February.

The league and players' union are working to stage a hockey World Cup in 2015, possibly lessening the impact. But most players believe nothing can replace the Olympics, and Canada's dominant performance was just the headline of an outstanding 12-day story in Sochi.

The Canadians were unshakably brilliant. The Russians flopped under enormous expectations. The U.S. team soared and crashed.

And while Canada skated away with gold in a 3-0 victory over Sweden on Sunday, nobody in a maple leaf was voted the tournament's MVP. That honor went to Teemu Selanne, the 43-year-old Finn who scored four goals in his record-tying sixth Olympics, captaining Finland to a bronze medal with two goals against the Americans.

Continued on Page 22

Roger Federer wins opener in Dubai Championships

SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Roger Federer began his campaign for a record sixth Dubai Championships title with a 6-1, 6-4, win over Benjamin Becker of Germany on Monday. "I'm extremely happy with today's match," Federer said. "Coming out and playing free tennis like that right off the bat is a good

feeling."

The eighth-ranked Federer has never dropped a set to the 93rd-ranked Becker in four matches.

Federer and top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who will play his first match on Tuesday, have won nine of the last 11 titles here in Dubai. Federer won the trophy in 2003, '04, '05, '07 and '12. Djokovic, the defending champion, won four times,

with Rafael Nadal winning in 2006 and Andy Roddick in 2008.

Federer raced through the first set against Becker in 22 minutes.

"Things can run away very quickly here," Federer said. "If you look at the winner list from here, it's guys who play well on (fast) grass courts."

Continued on Page 21



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball against Ilija Bozoljac of Serbia during their Davis Cup World Group play-off first round tennis match between Serbia and Switzerland, in Novi Sad, Serbia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2014. Associated Press

Day survives the magic of Dubuisson in Match Play

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — Jason Day never stopped believing he would win the Match Play Championship, even in the midst of so many shots by Victor Dubuisson that simply defied belief.

With his ball at the base of a cactus, Dubuisson took an all-or-nothing swing though the sharp needles and a TV cable and incredibly hit it to 4 feet to save par. Seemingly out of it on the next playoff hole, the 23-year-old Frenchman somehow whacked a wedge through a desert bush and rocks and onto the green for another par. Day finally ended the madness Sunday on the 23rd hole with a pitch to 4 feet on No. 15 for birdie.

It was the first time the championship match went overtime since the inaugural year in 1999 at La Costa, when Jeff Maggert chipped on the second extra hole of a 36-hole final. That was like watching paint dry compared to the show Dubuisson put on.

"Those two shots were amazing," Dubuisson said. "I just played it like I had nothing to lose."

Day, with his first World Golf Championship, walked away with his second PGA Tour title that will take the Australian to No. 4 in the world.

This tournament might better be remembered for Dubuisson's magical escapes. "Vic, man, he has a lot of guts," Day said. "He has a great short game — straight out of the cactus twice. For a 23-year-old kid, he's got a lot of game. We're going to see a lot of him for years to come."

Even the great Seve Ballesteros would have saluted this performance.

Two holes down with two holes to play, Dubuisson rapped in a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole and then took advantage of a rare lapse by Day, who bogeyed the 18th hole with a three-putt from 50 feet on the upper tier. The Frenchman saved par from the bunker to force extra holes. It looked like it would be over quickly.

From the first fairway, Dubuisson went so far long that bounced hard off the back of the green and into the desert, the ball nestled at the base of a cholla. During regulation, he would have taken a penalty drop. In this case, he felt he had no choice. He stepped up to the ball and, with nothing to lose, swung away. The club got caught on a TV cable, and the ball scooted up the slope of 3-inch grass and onto the green.

It was reminiscent of the shot Bill Haas pulled off at East Lake from shallow wa-

ter on the 17th hole. This was better.

And it came with an encore.

On the next extra hole, the par-5 ninth, Dubuisson tugged his shot left of the green, left of the bleachers and into a desert bush surrounded by rocks. He took another crack at it, and the shot came out perfectly through thick grass and onto the green.

Day could only laugh, though he had every reason to believe this was not his day.

"I kept shaking my head because there was a couple of time there where I thought he was absolutely dead — the tournament was mine," Day said.

It was — eventually.

After matching bogeys and pars on the next two holes — this time from the green grass — the match ended on the 333-yard 15th hole when Dubuisson's drive strayed too far right into side of a hill, leaving him an awkward pitch.

"I'm disappointed because I made some terrible shots," Dubuisson said, ignoring the two that were as close to a miracle as golf allows. Day won \$1.53 million. Lost in all the theater was that he never trailed over the final 53 holes of this fickle tournament.

Dubuisson earned \$906,000, all but assuring a PGA Tour card for next year.



Jason Day, of Australia, poses with the trophy after winning his championship match against Victor Dubuisson, of France, during the Match Play Championship golf tournament on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

And he all but clinched a spot on the Ryder Cup team in September, moving to the top of the points table by the equivalent of about \$1.5 million.

Dubuisson only reached the championship match by rallying from 3-down after six holes against Ernie Els in the morning semifinals. The Frenchman said he couldn't sleep Saturday night, perhaps because he realized he was playing a four-time major champion. He wound up beating Els with a par on the 18th hole to meet Day, who beat Rickie Fowler 3 and 2.

Fowler beat Els in 19 holes in the third-place match.

For all the heroics by Dubuisson over the final hour

of this amazing show, Day certainly had his moments. Dubuisson was on the back fringe in two on the par-5 11th in regulation, and it looked as though he would cut into a 3-down deficit when Day found a fairway bunker off the tee and could only blast out, leaving him 269 yards away. The 26-year-old Australian fired a 3-iron at the green, and the ball caught the ridge and burned the left edge of the cup before stopping 5 feet away. He made birdie to halve the hole.

Day also poured in a 10-foot birdie putt on the 15th in regulation to match birdies and keep a 2-up lead. But he had two putts in regulation to win, and missed both time. □

Marin Cilic wins Delray Beach Open

STEVE DORSEY

Associated Press

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (AP) — Croatia's Marin Cilic won the Delray Beach Open on Sunday for his 11th ATP World Tour title and second in three weeks, beating Kevin Anderson 7-6 (6), 6-7 (7), 6-4 in 3 hours, 8 minutes. Cilic leads the tour with 18 match wins this season. He improved to 3-1 against Anderson, the 2012 Delray winner.

"These three weeks have been very long for me,"

said Cilic, the winner in Zagreb and runner-up last week in Rotterdam. "I'm going to enjoy it for a while and have a little rest."

The match was the first final in tournament history with two sets decided in tiebreakers.

Anderson had 12 double faults.

"I just didn't put down the clamps to give myself some more chances," Anderson said. "I was a bit too patchy today, but I'm happy making the finals."



Marin Cilic, of Croatia, reacts after tying the second set against Kevin Anderson during the Delray Beach Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Delray Beach, Fla. Cilic won 7-6 (6), 6-7 (7), 6-4.

Associated Press

Top-ranked Bob and Mike Bryan won the doubles final, beating Frantisek Cermak and Mikhail Elgin 6-2, 6-3 for their third Delray Beach title. With Jack Nicklaus watching, the Bryans won their 94th ATP Tour title. "We never thought we'd get this high," Mike Bryan said.

"We're very happy to kick-start the year here in Delray," Bob Bryan said of about their first title of the season. "We're starting to hit our stride." □

Earnhardt Jr. wins 2nd Daytona 500 a decade later

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida

(AP) — Dale Earnhardt Jr. won a rain-delayed Daytona 500 on Sunday, a decade after his first victory in the "Great American Race."

Earnhardt snapped a 55-race winless stretch that dated to 2012, and also ended a frustrating sequence at Daytona International Speedway that had seen him finish second in three of the previous four 500s. "Winning this race is the greatest feeling that you could feel in this sport besides accepting the trophy for the championship," said Earnhardt, who climbed from his car in Victory Lane and hugged every member of his Hendrick Motorsports crew. "I didn't know if I'd ever get the chance to feel it again

and it feels just as good."

Rain stopped the race about 45 minutes in, delaying it for more than six hours. When it resumed, Earnhardt dominated at the track where his father was killed in an accident on the last lap of the 2001 race.

The race got chaotic as it neared the conclusion, with 42 lead changes and four multi-car accidents. An accident with seven laps to go triggered by pole-sitter Austin Dillon, driving the No. 3 — Earnhardt's father's number making its return to the Daytona 500 for the first time since 2001 — set up a final two-lap shootout to the finish.

Earnhardt got a great jump past Brad Keselowski on the restart, and had teammate Jeff Gordon behind him protecting his bumper.

But Denny Hamlin came charging through the field and Earnhardt suddenly had a challenger with one lap to go.

Then an accident farther back in the field involving former winners Kevin Harvick and Jamie McMurray brought out the caution and the win belonged to Earnhardt.

"We could fight off battle after battle. We got a little help at the end there from Jeff to get away on the restart," Earnhardt said. "I never take this for granted man, because it doesn't happen twice, let alone once."

Hamlin was second in a Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, followed by Keselowski in a Team Penske Ford.

Hendrick took fourth and fifth with Gordon and last year's race winner, Jimmie Johnson. □



Dale Earnhardt Jr. raises the trophy in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 Sprint Cup series auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014. Associated Press

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NBA Capsules

Jason Collins is NBA's 1st openly gay player

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jason Collins played his first game with the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday night, becoming the first openly gay player in the four major U.S. professional sports leagues, and Deron Williams had 30 points in a 108-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Collins was signed to a 10-day contract Sunday, nearly 10 months after his announcement on April 29 in Sports Illustrated. He had two rebounds and five fouls in 10 scoreless minutes.

The 12-year veteran spent his first six-plus NBA seasons with the Nets and helped them get to the NBA Finals in 2002 and 2003. This was the 35-year-old center's first NBA game since April 17, 2013, with Washington. Paul Pierce scored 25 points, helping the Nets end an 11-game losing streak against the Lakers. Pau Gasol had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who never led and lost for the 24th time in 30 games with Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash and Xavier Henry all sidelined by injuries.

HEAT 93, BULLS 79

MIAMI (AP) — With LeBron James watching from the

bench in a suit and tie, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade powered Miami to the victory.

James was a late scratch after he broke his nose in Thursday's win at Oklahoma City, and his teammates picked up the slack. Bosh had 28 points and 10 rebounds, and Wade added 23 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists.

The Bulls also were also short-handed. Starter Jimmy Butler was a late scratch because of bruised ribs.

Joakim Noah had 20 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks for Chicago, which had won five in a row. The Bulls shot 36 percent.

Miami, playing at home for the first time in 20 days, extended its winning streak to five games.

CLIPPERS 125, THUNDER 117
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Jamal Crawford scored 36 points to help the Clippers get the win.

Matt Barnes scored 24 points and Chris Paul had 18 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game skid.

Kevin Durant had 42 points and 10 assists and Serge



Brooklyn Nets center Jason Collins, left, battles for a loose ball with Los Angeles Lakers guard MarShon Brooks during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Ibaka added 20 points for the Thunder, who lost their second straight. It was the most points the Thunder have allowed this season. Oklahoma City overcame a 15-point deficit late in the third quarter to take a 115-112 lead on a 3-pointer by Durant with 2:43 to play, but the Clippers controlled the game from there.

A 3-pointer by Crawford with 1:30 remaining gave Los Angeles a 119-115

lead.

KINGS 109, NUGGETS 95
DENVER (AP) — Isaiah Thomas scored 33 points, Rudy Gay had 32 and Sacramento earned its first win in Denver in six years. DeMarcus Cousins added 27 points for the Kings, who snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Nuggets at the Pepsi Center. It was Sacramento's first win in the Mile High City since a 118-115 victory on April 5, 2008. The Kings have won three of their last four games overall.

Randy Foye and Evan Fournier each scored 27 points for the slumping Nuggets, who lost for the seventh time in the last eight games. The Nuggets fell to 1-5 without leading scorer Ty Lawson, who missed a sixth game because of a fractured left rib.

Down 58-51 after Foye hit a pair of 3-pointers in the third quarter, the Kings responded with a 21-2 run

that put them in front 72-60 with 4:55 left in the period. ROCKETS 115, SUNS 112
PHOENIX (AP) — Patrick Beverley sank the go-ahead 3-pointer with 34.3 seconds to play and Houston escaped with the win. Dwight Howard scored 25, James Harden had 23 and Beverley 20 for the Rockets, who trailed by 10 entering the fourth quarter.

Goran Dragic scored a career-high 35 points for the Suns, but missed a 3 at the buzzer. Gerald Green had 18 of his 23 points in the third quarter, and Markieff Morris finished with 21 points.

Beverley, who scored 12 in the fourth, made two free throws that boosted Houston's lead to 113-110 with 20 seconds to go before Dragic scored on a layup to cut it to 113-112 with 14.7 seconds to play.

Donatas Motiejunas sank two free throws with 14.1 seconds left to put Houston up 115-112. □

Dubai Championships

Continued from Page 18

"It's worth it to go for your shots and you feel like risky tennis will be rewarded." In the second set, Becker challenged better by playing himself into points. Federer faced a break point in the final game, which went to deuce twice, but managed to close it out. Seventh-seeded Philipp

Kohlschreiber of Germany won his opening match 6-3, 6-3 over Dutch qualifier Thiemo De Bakker. Kohlschreiber led 6-3, 5-0 when he lost three game in a row before serving out. Eighth-seeded Dmitry Tursunov of Russia was a 7-5, 6-1 winner over 101st-ranked qualifier Lukas Lacko of Slovakia. Andreas Seppi of Italy beat Florian Mayer of Germany

4-6, 6-1, 7-5 from 4-1 down in the third set.

"I just tried to keep fighting," Seppi said. "I didn't have so many matches under my belt this year. He gave me some chances to come back."

The victory was only the second for Seppi this year. His only other match win was beating Lleyton Hewitt in five sets in the Australian Open first round. □

Czech NHL star Milan Hejduk retires

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

CENTENNIAL, Colorado

(AP) — Milan Hejduk still laces up his skates every day and heads out onto the ice, where his notoriously quick wrists continue to send puck after puck skittering into the net.

Only now he spends his time mentoring his 10-year-old twin sons, not rookie NHL players.

"I feel like they're at the age now where they need me more than ever," said Hejduk, who announced his retirement from the league on Monday.

The announcement put an official end to his stellar 14-year NHL career with the Quebec/Colorado franchise that included the 2001 Stanley Cup. He played another six seasons in his native Czech Republic.

In addition to coaching youth ice hockey, Hejduk is also hitting the slopes and the links aplenty, so walking away from professional ice hockey, he said, "wasn't that difficult, really."

"It feels like I was retired

for a while," said Hejduk, 38, who hadn't played this season after being limited by injuries to a career-low 29 games during the league's truncated season a year ago. "It was almost preparation for retirement."

Hejduk said he actually thought about calling it quits before last season but was nine games shy of 1,000 NHL games, so he returned in 2013 and finished his career with 375 goals in 1,020 games.

Only two Czech-born players have registered more points in NHL history: Jaromir Jagr and Patrik Elias.

"I was lucky enough to play for one organization, the Colorado Avalanche and I had a blast. It was awesome. I had a great time," Hejduk said at the team's practice facility as the sound of pucks hitting the boards and skates shaving the ice could be heard below.

Former teammate Joe Sakic, now the Avalanche executive vice president of hockey operations, said



In this Jan. 14, 2013, file photo, Colorado Avalanche right wing Milan Hejduk, of Czech Republic, follows his shot during the teams NHL hockey practice session in Englewood, Colo.

Associated Press

Hejduk had incredible hands: "His release, along with his hockey sense and vision, made him one of the premier goal-scorers in the NHL during his prime." Sakic said nobody knew much about Hejduk when he first arrived at training camp in Colorado Springs in 1998.

"Guys just looked at each other and commented on how good his hands were," Sakic said. "Great hands.

Elusive skater. Very shifty. ... We knew right then he was going to be a special player."

Hejduk was a grinder and never was much of a talker.

"He wasn't a rah-rah guy," Sakic said. "He came to work every day. He prepared. Nobody worked harder than him on the ice. Milan was a competitor. I'm sure he's instilling that with his boys and his hock-

ey teams. He didn't say much, but a great sense of humor. He is a great guy to be around. He's just a perfect teammate, did whatever was asked of him, made everybody around him better."

Hejduk said he's not surprised Sakic and goaltender-turned-coach Patrick Roy have turned around the Avalanche's fortunes this season.

Hejduk and his wife built a home in the Denver suburb of Parker that has a rink nearby, and the couple plan to continue making Colorado their home while visiting Europe for a couple of months every summer.

Hejduk said he doesn't really miss the NHL.

"Basically I've been out of the game since late April," he said. "So, not really, because I'm spending more time with the family and enjoying stuff that I couldn't do before. Plus, not being totally out of hockey. Like I mentioned before, I'm basically on the ice every day just having fun with the kids. That's probably eased the pain a little bit." □

NHL

Continued from Page 18

Here are five things to remember from the Olympic men's hockey tournament in Sochi:

SOCHI'S BEST DAY: The biggest games in this tournament were nearly devoid of drama as the best teams largely kept leads and held them. Canada never even trailed. But the United States' shootout victory over Russia is likely to be the best-remembered game in Sochi because of T.J. Oshie, the St. Louis Blues forward who scored four times in six attempts against goalie Sergei Bobrovsky to crush the Russian crowd. The home team's heartbreak was compounded by a disallowed goal with 4:40 left in regulation because Jonathan Quick's net was dislodged. If Russia's late goal had counted, or if Bobrovsky had stopped Oshie one more time, Russia likely would have earned an au-



Teemu Selanne of Finland (8) takes a victory lap around the ice with his medal after he men's bronze medal ice hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. Finland defeated the United States 5-0.

Associated Press

tomatic berth to the quarterfinals, and the medal rounds could have been much different.

TEEMU FOREVER: After extending his own Olympic scoring record and winning his fourth medal, Selanne insists he's done with hockey this summer when the NHL-leading Anaheim Ducks' season concludes.

Trouble is, Selanne has been threatening retirement every year since winning the Stanley Cup in 2007, and he thought he was done with Olympic hockey after each of the past four trips with Finland dating to 2002. "We'll see," teammate Jussi Jokinen said. **LIVE UNDERDOGS:** While hockey's traditional

powers dominated, a first-time Olympic nation and a perennial underdog made memorable impacts earlier in the tournament. Slovenia arrived in Sochi simply hoping not to get embarrassed, but the team with just one NHL player — Los Angeles Kings star Anze Kopitar — beat Slovakia and Austria on its way to the quarterfinals. Latvia also earned its first Olympic victory in 12 years before pushing mighty Canada in a 2-1 quarterfinal loss with a 55-save performance by Kristers Gudlevskis.

INJURIES ABOUND: Distance, time zones and lost revenue are obvious obstacles to the NHL's participation on Pyeongchang in 2018, but the spate of significant injuries in Sochi won't ease the owners' minds, either. Islanders center John Tavares is out for the season with a leg injury. Rangers forward Mats Zuccarello hurt his hand playing for Norway. Columbus defenseman Fedor Tyutin

will miss playing time with an injured ankle. And both of the lowly Florida Panthers' representatives in Sochi — Finland's Aleksander Barkov and the Czechs' Tomas Kopecky — are coming home injured.

GOOD TIMES: Every future Winter Olympics will have difficulty matching the spectacular setup for hockey in Sochi, where organizers built five sparkling NHL-caliber rinks within 500 yards of each other on the Black Sea shores. Players could make the seven-minute trip from the athletes' village on bicycles. The centerpiece Bolshoy was a compact marvel of design and charm, leaving many players hoping a Kontinental Hockey League franchise will move in full time. For all the pre-Olympics worries about safety and distance, the Sochi tournament will be remembered fondly by almost everybody who laced up skates — and everybody lucky enough to be there. □

Several new phones coming, but all eyes on Samsung

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer
BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

Sony unveiled a new waterproof phone that can take ultra-high-definition video. Nokia introduced three Android smartphones aimed at emerging markets. And Lenovo announced one with an all-glass exterior.

Yet the spotlight Monday was on Samsung, which announced a successor to its flagship Galaxy S4 smartphone. The Galaxy S5 will feature a heart-rate monitor, a fingerprint sensor for security and a sharper camera with faster auto focus.

Samsung's glitzy announcement during the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, made it harder for other phone makers to get noticed. Samsung had several times the attendance of either Sony's or Nokia's event Monday. An orchestra opened Samsung's event as blue spotlights moved up and down the aisles.

"It's increasingly difficult to get attention for your mobile device in a very crowded marketplace," said Dan Hays, U.S. wireless

advisory leader at the consulting firm PwC.

It's even more difficult when one of the competing devices comes from Samsung Electronics Co., which announced the new phone a day after it unveiled two new computerized wristwatches, the Gear 2 and Gear 2 Neo. Samsung also announced a fitness band on Monday. Apple is the only company that might be able to overshadow Samsung, but it isn't attending or announcing anything at the show.

Roger Entner, an analyst with the Recon Analytics research firm in Boston, said the S4 and its predecessor, the Galaxy S III, were both blockbuster phones and have helped Samsung surpass iPhone maker Apple Inc. as the world's largest smartphone maker. According to Gartner, Samsung had a 31 percent market share last year, compared with 16 percent for Apple. No other company had more than 5 percent.

More important than having well-made phones, however, "is that they are spending a significant amount on advertising,"



Samsung CEO J.K. Shin presents the new device Samsung Gear Fit at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014.

Associated Press

Entner said.

Samsung spent nearly 4.6 trillion won (\$4.3 billion) in advertising in the 12 months through September, about four times the \$1.1 billion Apple spent in the same period, the latest for which figures were available. Although Samsung also makes TVs, refrigerators and other products, analysts believe much of the marketing is for newer products such as phones.

In a November interview with The Associated Press, Motorola Mobility CEO Dennis Woodside said Samsung has shown "that marketing can really create a product and create a phenomenon. We're never going to have the money that they have to market our products."

The only other company that comes close to matching Samsung's muscle is Apple. The iPhone's debut in 2007 showed the world that phones can do much more than calls and messages. Since then, each new iPhone release has taken on an aura of a rock concert, with the most devoted Apple fans lining up at stores for hours or days to buy one.

Apple typically skips trade shows, however, and prefers holding its own events. In fact, Samsung also typically holds its own events. Last year's Galaxy S4 announcement came in New York a few weeks after the Barcelona show. But timing this year's unveiling to the show is a good opportunity for Samsung to make deals with wireless carriers and other partners.

Sony Mobile President Kuni-masa Suzuki said that with Apple and Samsung so dominant, the real battle is for No. 3. He said that means marketing that is focused by country and product line.

"It doesn't mean we just directly compete with the big giants," he said in an interview Monday.

Despite all the marketing power, Samsung will have to give people a reason to upgrade. There's a notion that phone improvements these days are incremental rather than innovative. Samsung tried to shatter that notion by highlighting features not found in other phones. That includes a heart-rate sensor to complement its upcoming wearable fitness devices. The S5 is also among the first to have a fingerprint sensor for security, though that's already in Apple's iPhone 5s.

In the past, Samsung has tried to appear innovative by packing its Android phones with a slew of features, such as automatic scrolling of content when the phone or user's head is tilted. But these features don't always work as promised and come across as disjointed from one another.

Samsung also has been updating phones by making their screens larger. The S5 continues that trend, with a display that measures 5.1 inches (12.95 cm) diagonally. By contrast, the S4 was 5 inches and the original S from 2010 was 4 inches. The iPhone's screen has stayed steady at 4 inches since 2012. □

WhatsApp to add voice to messaging service

JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press
BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

WhatsApp, the popular messaging service for smartphones that's being acquired by Facebook, will soon be offering a voice service.

CEO Jan Koum said the voice service will be deployed for Android and iPhones this spring, with BlackBerry and Microsoft and Nokia phones coming later.

"We are going to introduce voice in WhatsApp in the second quarter of this year," Koum said at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. "I think we have the best voice product out there. We use the least amount of band-

width."

WhatsApp currently has a voice function but only in note form. This new service will be live.

On Wednesday, Facebook agreed to buy WhatsApp for \$19 billion in a deal that is by far the biggest by the social networking company and any other done by Google, Microsoft or Apple.

Wearing a gray shirt, jeans and a black jacket, the 38-year-old Koum quipped - "last week we added a new Facebook friend. I don't know if you guys heard."

The blockbuster deal made serious waves with those in the telecommunications industry who gathered this week in the Catalan city,



Co-founder and CEO of WhatsApp Jan Koum speaks during a conference at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014.

Associated Press.

but also sparked concern among users that Facebook would introduce advertising to WhatsApp. □

Men's Wearhouse lifts takeover bid for Jos A Bank

FREMONT, California (AP) — Men's Wearhouse is stepping up its pursuit of Jos. A. Bank Clothiers Inc., boosting the takeover offer for its rival by 10 percent to about \$1.78 billion. The move comes 10 days after Jos. A. Bank announced that it was planning to buy the parent company of Eddie Bauer in a cash-and-stock deal valued at \$825 million. But

at the time Jos. A. Bank left the door open: saying that it may end the Eddie Bauer deal if it receives an acquisition offer that is superior. Men's Wearhouse Inc. said Monday it's now offering \$63.50 per share for Jos. A. Bank, up from its prior \$57.50 per share bid. The new offer, which is set to expire on March 12, is conditioned on Jos. A. Bank ending its deal for Eddie Bauer. Other

conditions include Jos. A. Bank's directors redeeming or invalidating the shareholder rights plan that's in place. Men's Wearhouse said it may even raise the bid further, to \$65 per share, if it is able to examine Jos. A. Bank's books and given access to the company's management team. Men's Wearhouse President and CEO Doug Ewert

said in a statement that it would even be willing to talk about offering Jos. A. Bank shareholders the opportunity to choose to receive Men's Wearhouse stock for part of its proposal. Ewert said there's been "extensive dialogue" with both companies' shareholders over the past several months and that there's "widespread support" for the potential transaction.

Honda tapping woman to board, backs foreigner

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Honda appointed a woman to its board for the first time and gave a major promotion to a foreigner in signs the automaker wants to change perceptions of a hide-bound corporate culture. Technology expert Hideko Kunii, 66, will join the board, and Issao Mizoguchi, a Brazilian of Japanese ancestry, who has worked with Honda's South American operations for nearly 30 years, has been appointed operating officer, Honda Motor Co. said Monday. The appointments need shareholder approval at a meeting set for June.

Companies have come under fire within Japan for not promoting anyone other than Japanese men. Putting women in leadership positions is a pillar of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policies to revive the moribund Japanese economy. Toyota has a foreigner on its board, American Mark Hogan, formerly of General Motors Co., but has yet to tap a woman, and it said it is not necessarily looking to promote a woman.

Honda has cultivated an international image from its early years, as founder Soichiro Honda always had global acceptance as part of his vision for the company. It was the first Japanese automaker to open a vehicle assembly plant in the U.S. But the addition of Mizoguchi, 54, as one of the top executives at headquarters, as well as the appointment of Kunii, a professor at the Shibaura Institute of Technology, is a high profile move for the company. Kunii studied at San Jose University and the University of Texas at Austin, and previously worked for Japanese electronics maker Ricoh Co. She is now in charge of promoting gender equality at the university in Tokyo. Mizoguchi is senior vice president and director of Honda South America.

Despite Abe's prodding to promote women to corporate boards. □

Stocks soar but fall short of record high

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market ended higher Monday, but a late fade kept it from closing at an all-time high.

corporate earnings to work through, so much of Monday's focus was on another round of corporate deal making. Chipmaker RF Micro Devices jumped \$1.22, or 21 per-

petitors, or buying up a company whose product interests them, should be seen as a positive for stocks, market watchers say. "It shows that companies

chaos in Ukraine came to an abrupt halt over the weekend following the ouster of President Viktor Yanulovych. Investors had been worried about the escalating violence.

"The risks in emerging markets continue to recede, and now the problems in the Ukraine are out of the way," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Wealth Management. The S&P 500's 1,850-point level continues to be a ceiling for investors trying to bid stocks higher. The index has tried to close above 1,850 three times in the last three months, failing each time.

Investors have a chance to test all-time highs after economic reports come out later this week.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen will testify in front of the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday. Economic reports this week include durable goods orders and U.S. fourth-quarter gross domestic product.

Government bond prices were flat Monday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was unchanged from Friday at 2.74 percent. The price of oil rose 62 cents to \$102.82 a barrel. Gold rose \$14.40 to \$1,338 an ounce. In other corporate news:

— Netflix and Comcast reached an agreement to ensure that the online video service's shows and movies are streamed smoothly. No details were released about the cost to Netflix. Comcast gained 10 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$51.15 and Netflix was up \$14.77, or 3 percent, to \$447. □



Trader Joseph Lawler works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market ended higher Monday, but a late fade kept it from closing at an all-time high.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The market marched broadly higher most of the day, helped by optimism about the economy and more corporate mergers, only to slowly lose momentum in the final half hour of trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended up 11.36 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,847.61 — just short of its record close of 1,848.38 set on Jan. 15. The momentum helped the index set a new intraday high of 1,858.76 earlier in the day, however. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 103.84 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,207.14 and the Nasdaq composite rose 29.56 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,292.97.

Investors had little in the way of economic data or

cent, to \$7.03 after it said would buy a competitor, TriQuint Semiconductor, in an all-stock deal valued at about \$1.56 billion. TriQuint soared \$2.41, or 26 percent, to \$11.64.

Meanwhile, men's clothing chain Jos. A. Bank rose \$4.99, or 9 percent, to \$60.04 after competitor Men's Wearhouse increased its buyout offer. Men's Wearhouse rose \$3.40, or 8 percent, to \$48.51. M&A has taken off this year. Last week, Forest Laboratories and Actavis announced a \$25 billion merger and Facebook said it was buying WhatsApp for \$19 billion. That's on top of deals or offers announced this week. Companies buying com-

panies buying com-

still see value in this market, even at these highs," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial.

In the last two-and-a-half weeks, the stock market has basically erased of the losses it experienced after a difficult start to the year. The S&P 500 index was down as much 6 percent for the year as of February 3 as investors worried about emerging markets like China and Turkey. The U.S. economic recovery was also showing signs of slowing growth.

But the U.S. stock market has recovered as turbulence in overseas markets calms down.

In the latest development in overseas markets, the

EBay responds to Icahn, says sticking with PayPal

**MAE ANDERSON
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — EBay and activist shareholder Carl Icahn are continuing their war of words over PayPal. The billionaire has been pressuring the e-commerce company to spin off the online payment business. But eBay has said it's not interested in separating its fastest growing segment. On Monday, Icahn said in a blistering letter to shareholders that eBay's "complete disregard for accountability at eBay is the most blatant we have ever seen" and called out two directors and the CEO specifically for "lapses in corporate government." EBay responded that that it continues to believe stockholders are best served by keeping PayPal as part of the company.

PayPal, which eBay bought for \$1.3 billion in late 2002, is now growing faster than the company's core mar-

ketplaces business. In the fourth quarter, payments revenue of \$1.84 billion accounted for about 41 percent of total revenue for

from serving solely as an online payments service. In January, eBay said Icahn had taken a less than 1 percent stake in the company

At the time Icahn also nominated two of his employees for eBay's board. eBay said then that it had looked into a split from PayPal, but felt it wasn't the best move for shareholders. But it said it will review Icahn's nominees.

In his letter Monday, Icahn also alleged that some eBay board members have conflicts of interest. Among those to catch Icahn's fire: Scott Cook, who is the founder and former CEO of Intuit Inc. and is a current board member for the company. Icahn questioned Cook's involvement on the eBay board, saying that Intuit and PayPal are direct competitors. Icahn also questioned Marc Andreessen's loyalty to eBay, claiming he was able to achieve significant personal financial benefit from buying large stakes in two former eBay subsidiaries. Icahn also drubbed eBay CEO John Donahoe, saying he seems "completely

asleep or, even worse, either naive or willfully blind to these grave lapses of accountability and stockholder value destruction." EBay said Cook, Andreessen and Donahoe were unavailable for individual comment. But in a statement, the company said its board is "scrupulous in its governance practices and fully transparent with regard to its directors' other affiliations and businesses."



An eBay/PayPal sign is shown in San Jose, Calif. EBay said Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, it's sticking with PayPal, whether minority shareholder Carl Icahn likes it or not. The online auction site said Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, it continues to believe stockholders are best served by keeping PayPal as part of the company.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

the period. Recently, PayPal has been expanding into brick-and-mortar stores

and said he was seeking a non-binding shareholder resolution to spin off PayPal.

Nokia targets emerging markets with Androids

**ANICK JESDANUN
JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press**

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Nokia is targeting emerging markets with three low-cost smartphones that use Google's Android operating system rather than the Windows Phone software from Microsoft, which is about to take over Nokia's handset business. Nokia will ditch many of the

Google services that come with Android and use instead the Microsoft services such as Bing search, Skype communications and OneDrive file storage. Its home screen sports larger, resizable tiles resembling those on Windows phone.

"More and more people are buying smartphones for less than 100 euros," Stephen Elop, Nokia executive vice president, said

Monday as he presented the new phones at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. "That sub-100 range is a massive opportunity for us. According to analysts, it will grow four times as fast as rest of smartphone market."

Once the No. 1 maker of cellphones, Nokia has been struggling to keep up with the iPhone and devices running Android. And

even as competition intensifies for high-end smartphones, Nokia has been hit by competition from cheaper phones made by Chinese and other Asian companies.

The Nokia X is on sale immediately for 89 euros (\$122). The Nokia X+ will cost 99 euros and the Nokia XL will cost 109 euros, with both going on sale in early March.



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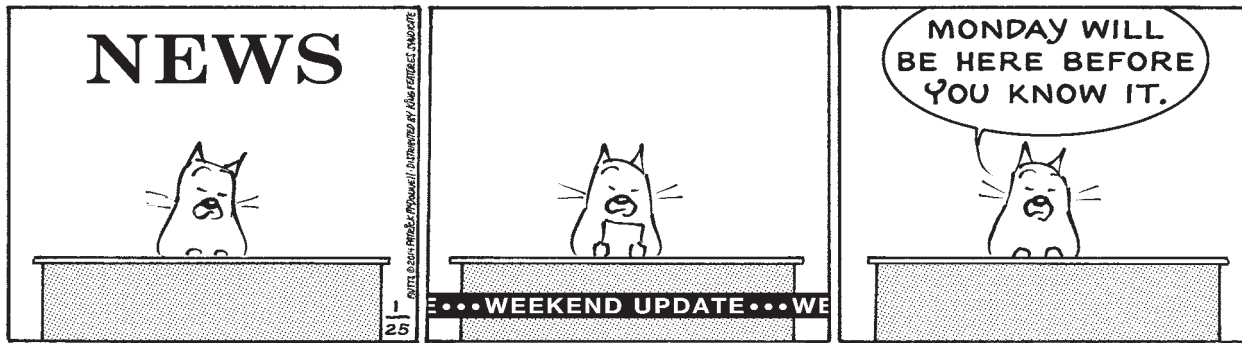
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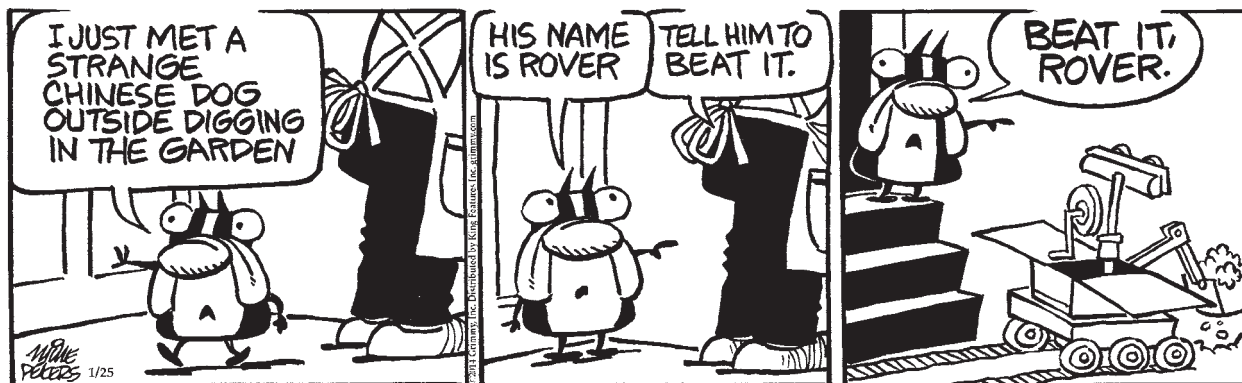
6 Chix



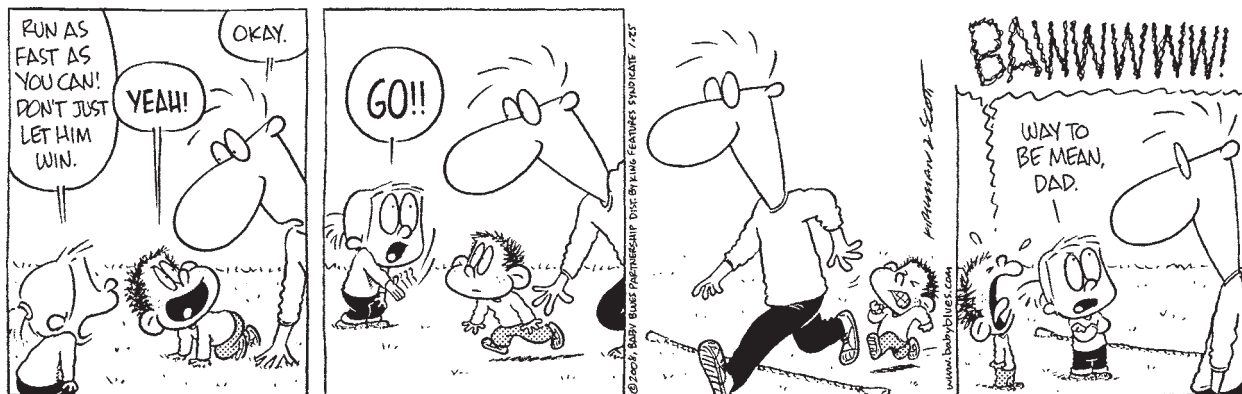
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				8				
		9	3		1	8		
		2				7		
	3		1		9		5	
8				5				9
	9		8		4		2	
		7				1		
		6	2		7	5		
				9				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	6	3	2	8	9	1	5	4
5	9	4	3	6	1	2	7	8
1	2	8	7	4	5	6	3	9
9	3	1	8	7	2	5	4	6
8	5	6	9	1	4	7	2	3
4	7	2	6	5	3	9	8	1
2	8	7	1	3	6	4	9	5
3	1	5	4	9	7	8	6	2
6	4	9	5	2	8	3	1	7

ACROSS

- Baby's first word, perhaps
- "_ Boots Are Made for Walkin'"
- Fail to include
- Corrupt
- _ for; desire strongly
- City in Texas
- Internal spy
- Homes
- Wise as an _
- Low area between hills
- Rex and Donna
- Roy Rogers and Dale _
- Armed conflict
- Mr. Hemingway
- Smooches
- Not smart
- Group of lions
- Mover's truck
- Walk, trot or canter
- Of the highest quality
- Three kings of biblical fame
- Large bird that cannot fly
- Daytime serials
- Purple shade
- Stinky
- Decline
- Compete
- City in Israel
- "Beat it!"
- Dowels
- Tit for _
- Very stubborn
- Staple in an Asian diet
- Shaping tool
- 1/16 of a pound
- 1 of 4 bases in baseball
- Unwanted plant
- _ on; incited
- Smallest bills
- DOWN
- Short note
- Declare without shame
- 1,000 years
- Stein beverage
- Despot
- Foot parts
- At _; relaxed
- _ Lanka
- Finish
- Proprietors
- Riot control spray
- _ tea
- Throw
- Wipe away
- Bouquet holder
- Part of a three-piece suit
- Broad
- On _; nervous
- Enlarges a hole
- Basinger and Kardashian
- Assessment
- Long tales
- Speak to God
- Tear
- Pleasant
- South _; part of Antarctica
- Offend
- _ down; diets successfully
- Island garlands
- Steered clear of
- In tatters
- Thus
- George Bernard _
- Give up land
- Demolish a building
- Ping-__
- Pinnacle
- Pegs for Ernie Els
- Foot digit
- Carpet
- Fraternity letter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23	24					25						
26	27					28			29	30		
31				32	33				34		35	
36				37					38			
39				40					41			
42		43						44				
45							46					
47	48	49				50			51	52	53	
54				55	56				57			
58				59					60			
61				62					63			

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/25/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	G	E	D	O	D	S	D	A	S	H
A	W	A	R	E	A	I	D	E	E	C	H
N	A	V	A	L	T	E	E	N	S	T	O
E	Y	E	S	I	G	H	T	S	L	E	E
R	E	D	D	E	N	H	A	S	N	T	
A	P	E	R	E	C	U	R	D	E	M	O
P	I	E	R	S	O	R	E	R	D	O	N
S	C	R	E	W	A	R	D	O	R	O	C
S	A	S	S	Y	B	E	T	T	E	S	
U	P	T	I	G	H	T	R	E	N	O	
T	R	A	D	E	R	D	I	S	T	I	N
T	O	M	E	U	S	E	D	A	L	O	H
E	V	E	N	B	A	L	E	L	E	T	U
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TODAY BENDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown

Ovary removal aids high-risk women but at what age

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For women who carry a notorious cancer gene, surgery to remove healthy ovaries is one of the most protective steps they can take. New research suggests some may benefit most from having the operation as young as 35.

Women who inherit either of two faulty BRCA genes are at much higher risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer than other women, and at younger ages. Actress Angelina Jolie generated headlines last year when she had her healthy breasts removed to reduce her cancer risk.

Monday's study is the largest yet to show the power of preventive ovarian surgery for those women. The surgery not only lowers their chances of getting either ovarian or breast cancer. The study estimated it also can reduce women's risk of death before age 70 by 77 percent.

Ovarian cancer is particu-



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) special envoy Angelina Jolie speaks to journalists after her meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam, at the government palace, in Beirut, Lebanon, Monday Feb. 24, 2014. Jolie generated headlines last year when she had her healthy breasts removed to reduce her cancer risk.

larly deadly, and there is no good way to detect it early like there is for breast cancer. So for years, doctors have advised BRCA carriers to have their ovaries removed between the ages of 35 and 40, or when women are finished having children.

The new study suggests the surgery, called an oopho-

rectomy, should be timed differently for the different genes.

For women who carry the higher-risk BRCA1, the chance of already having ovarian cancer rose from 1.5 percent at age 35 to 4 percent at age 40, said lead researcher Dr. Steven Narod of the University of Toronto. After that, the risk jumped to 14 percent by age 50.

In contrast, the researchers said carriers of the related BRCA2 gene could safely delay surgery into their 40s. The study found only one case in a woman younger than 50.

Ovarian surgery "is the cornerstone for cancer prevention," declared Narod, whose team published the research in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. "The typical woman with a BRCA1 mutation will benefit to a large extent from an oophorectomy at age 35, and we want to make that a pretty standard recommendation."

Future studies would have to verify the findings, and other specialists urged

caution. Waiting until age 40 for ovary removal, as many women with BRCA1 do today, makes a very small difference, stressed Dr. Claudine Isaacs, an oncologist and cancer risk specialist at Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, who wasn't involved in the new research. The findings shouldn't frighten women into acting sooner if they're not ready, agreed Dr. Susan Domchek of the University of Pennsylvania's Basser Research Center for BRCA, who also wasn't involved in the study.

Many women have babies during their late 30s, and ovary removal sends women into early menopause that can increase their risk of bone-thinning osteoporosis or heart disease later on.

"Thirty-five isn't necessarily a magic number," Domchek said. "If you are talking to a woman who hasn't yet finished having her kids, it's a completely reasonable thing to discuss the low risk of ovarian cancer by age 40 in the context

of the other decisions that she's making in her life."

But Domchek added: For BRCA1 carriers, "by age 40, I will be nagging you about this again."

About 1.4 percent of women develop ovarian cancer at some point in life, but 39 percent of BRCA1 carriers do, and between 11 percent and 17 percent of BRCA2 carriers, according to the National Cancer Institute. Likewise, 12 percent of average women will develop breast cancer, but a BRCA mutation raises the risk four- to five-fold.

The new study included 5,787 BRCA carriers from Canada, the U.S. and parts of Europe. Researchers tracked their health for an average of 5½ years, and found 186 who eventually developed either ovarian cancer or related fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer. Ovary removal reduced cancer risk by 80 percent. Interestingly, removing the ovaries can reduce the risk of breast cancer as well by affecting hormone levels in the body — and Narod found the surgery increased women's chances of survival even if they already had developed breast cancer.

Specialists say more than two-thirds of BRCA carriers undergo ovary removal at some point, compared with about a third who choose a preventive mastectomy. Insurance generally pays for the procedures.

Key to the ovary decision is having a doctor who knows how to treat the hot flashes and other menopause problems that can make women delay the surgery, said Georgetown genetic counselor Beth Peshkin.

Lauren Dubin knows what a difficult choice it is. Her mother, aunt, sister and cousins all developed breast cancer, but Dubin didn't know ovarian cancer also was a risk until she underwent gene testing at age 40 and learned she carried BRCA1. Despite fear of early menopause, Dubin had her ovaries removed a few months later, managed the symptoms and is glad she did. □

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'Ghostbuster' writer, actor Harold Ramis dies

TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Harold Ramis, the bespectacled "Ghostbusters" sidekick to Bill Murray whose early grounding in live comedy led to such classics as "National Lampoon's Animal House," "Caddyshack" and "Groundhog Day," died Monday. He was 69.

Ramis, who suffered for several years from an autoimmune disease that caused inflammation and damage to his blood vessels, died at his home in the Chicago suburbs, surrounded by family and friends, his talent agency said.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is his influence on generations of comedians, actors and directors due to his ability to infuse comedy with a broader, sometimes spiritual message, said Andrew Alexander, president and CEO of The Second City. Ramis got his start with the Chicago-based improvisational comedy theater, known for launching future co-stars Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi and Murray to "Saturday Night Live" and then Hollywood.

"There was always a nuanced meaning to his pictures," Alexander said, including an "almost Buddhist philosophy to 'Groundhog Day'" — a movie Ramis co-wrote and directed that tells the story of a man who re-lives the same day over and over as he examines his life.

"He was a generous, nurturing, humble guy," Alexander added. Aykroyd issued a statement Monday, saying he was "deeply saddened to hear of the passing of



my brilliant, gifted, funny friend ... May he now get the answers he was always seeking."

Ramis joined The Second City in 1969, and in 1976 became head writer for the Canadian-based comedy show Second City Television, or SCTV.

He soon moved on to bigger projects — the legendary 1978 blockbuster film "National Lampoon's Animal House," which starred Belushi, who was then starring as an original cast member of "Saturday Night Live."

With Murray, then also starring on "Saturday Night Live," as the comic lead, the Second City alums paired up for numerous projects: Ramis co-wrote 1979's "Meatballs" and co-wrote and directed 1980's "Caddyshack."

But the most well-known of their collaborations was "Ghostbusters," which also features Aykroyd. Ramis helped write the 1984 movie, in which he stars as Egon Spengler, the brainy, commonsense member of a group of parapsychologists who try to catch ghosts.

"The best comedy touches something that's timeless and universal in people," Ramis told The Associated Press in a 2009 story about the 50th anniversary of Second City. "When you hit it right, those things last."

More recently, he directed "Analyze This," starring Billy Crystal and Robert DeNiro.

Ramis was born Nov. 21, 1944 in Chicago. He is survived by his wife, Erica Ramis; sons Julian and Daniel; daughter Violet; and two grandchildren. □

CNN says Piers Morgan's talk show is ending

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — CNN's prime-time talk show "Piers Morgan Live" is coming to an end, the news channel said Sunday.

Morgan, who succeeded Larry King three years ago, was drawing lackluster ratings. In contrast, King had a 25-year run on CNN. The airdate for Morgan's last show has yet to be determined, CNN said in a statement.

Morgan is a former U.K. tabloid editor who reinvented himself as a TV personality with stints as

a judge on "Britain's Got Talent" and its U.S. spinoff, NBC's "America's Got Talent," and as a contestant on "Celebrity Apprentice."

He hosted BBC's "You Can't Fire Me, I'm Famous," and did interview shows and documentaries for ITV.

Morgan told The New York Times that his show lately has "taken a bath in the ratings" but that he and CNN President Jeff Zucker were discussing a new role for him at the channel. CNN's audience has tired of hearing a Brit weigh in American cultural issues,

Morgan said in a story posted online Sunday. Morgan's future with CNN is undetermined, the channel said.

Last fall, the already struggling "Piers Morgan Live" faced increased competition from a revised Fox News Channel lineup that included a strong new performer at 9 p.m. EST with Megyn Kelly's "The Kelly File."

Morgan served as editor of The Daily Mirror from 1995 to 2004. He has been questioned in connection with Britain's long-running phone hacking scandal, which has led to numer-



In this May 7, 2013, file photo, honoree Piers Morgan poses at the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence Los Angeles Gala at The Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

ous arrests, resignations and the closure of Rupert Murdoch's News of the World tabloid.

Earlier this month, Morgan confirmed that he was interviewed in December

by British police investigating the illegal interception of telephone voicemails. Morgan, who said he had given a previous witness statement, has consistently denied wrongdoing. □



In this Feb. 24, 2013 file photo, Paula Patton and Robin Thicke arrive at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscars Viewing and After Party at the Sunset Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

Robin Thicke, Paula Patton ending marriage

NEW YORK (AP) — Robin Thicke and Paula Patton are calling it quits.

A representative for the actress confirmed Monday that the couple are ending their 9-year marriage.

Thicke, 36, and Patton, 38, met when they were teenagers. They had a son, Julian Fuego Thicke, in 2010.

Thicke had a breakthrough last year with the international hit "Blurred Lines," which was nominated for several Grammy Awards. Patton has appeared in the films "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol," "Idlewild," and "Precious."

Patton has also appeared in Thicke's music videos, including "Lost Without U" and "Love After War." She was the inspiration behind most of his music, and she appeared on the cover of his 2003 debut, "A Beautiful World."

Their separation was first reported on People magazine's website. □

Actor Alec Baldwin contemplates leaving NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Alec Baldwin says he misses the days when New Yorkers signaled their appreciation of celebrities briefly and politely while taking care to maintain privacy.

The 55-year-old actor writes in New York magazine that he "probably" needs to move out of the nation's largest city. Baldwin says he has a happy home for the first time in his adult life. He says he's considering Los Angeles, living insulated behind a gate with his wife and their child.

A lot of the article deals with comments that Baldwin says were misquoted or misinterpreted. Among other things, he details strongly worded evidence that he's not homophobic. Baldwin says he realizes he "could have done things differently."

He apologizes if he's "offended anyone along the way." □



This July 22, 2013 file photo shows actor Alec Baldwin at the premiere of "Blue Jasmine" in New York.

Associated Press

Backers of 'Allegiance' embrace innovation

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Most theater producers with a new work heading for Broadway first secure a theater and gather a cast before trying to fire up an audience. By that measure, the man behind "Allegiance" is doing it backward.

Lorenzo Thione, a tech entrepreneur who has produced such shows as "Catch Me If You Can" and "Elling," is offering fans of the George Takei-led musical the unprecedented chance to really show their allegiance by spending a few dollars now to reserve a seat for a show has yet to nail down a Broadway home. "I sat down and said, 'Well, we can't really sell tickets. What can we do that's as close to that as we possibly can?'" Thione said. "That's how this idea came about."

Fans who spend \$5 for the Allegiance Priority Access Pass are entitled to buy two tickets to any performance before they go on sale to anyone else. Those who do will also get a free



This photo provided by O+M Public Relations shows the cover of a 6-song mini cast album for the musical "Allegiance," which hopes to find a theater on Broadway. Based on "Star Trek" star George Takei's childhood memories, the show is a multigenerational tale that's framed by a Japanese-American war veteran looking back on his family's time in a Wyoming internment camp.

Associated Press

download of the cast album when it's recorded.

The offer — a reward program common to other industries but unheard of on Broadway — gives fans some insider perks but also gives Thione a way to measure interest in the musical about Japanese-Americans during World War II. If the show fails to make it to Broadway, the \$5 won't be refunded, but the ticket offer will be extended to any tour or commercial production of the show outside New York.

The offer, announced on the musical's website last week, is not really about the money generated. (In fact, Thione changed the price from \$3.99 to \$5 at the last minute.) More important than the revenue is proof of interest, which he can then show to wary theater owners.

"What we wanted to have was a real indication of who would be buying tickets on Broadway," said Thione, who co-founded the startups Powerset and Artify.it. "I had one too many conversations, 'Is there really an audience?' Would they ask if I had \$10 million in advance sales? No."

"Allegiance," based on

"Star Trek" star Takei's childhood memories, is a multigenerational tale that's framed by a Japanese-American war veteran looking back on his family's time in a Wyoming internment camp.

A Broadway berth has so far eluded the team, partly due to the complicated logistics of traditional theater booking and partly because the subject is a dark and mostly unknown chapter of American history.

But Thione points to shows with tough background stories such as "Les Misérables" or "The Sound of Music": "The truth is that when you look at the most successful worldwide musicals of all time, they're not about easy subjects."

What "Allegiance" has going for it is a bottom-up, grass roots feel that Thione has stoked. His marketing and management company The Social Edge has leveraged Takei's huge social media presence and keeps updating fans with news, music and details. Producers have released a mini-CD of the music and there's also a program for hardcore fans to get rewards for spreading the word. □

Capitalism for the Masses



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

When Arthur Brooks was 24, he was playing the French horn in a chamber music concert in Dijon, France. He noticed a beautiful woman smiling at him from the front row, so, after the recital, he made a beeline for her and introduced himself.

Within seven seconds he came to two realizations. First, he was going to marry this woman. Second, she didn't speak a word of English, and he didn't speak a word of Spanish or Catalan, which were her languages.

When he got home, he realized that if he was going to have a chance with Ester, he was going to have to show some commitment. So he quit his job in America, moved to Barcelona and went to work with the Barcelona orchestra. Over the next few years, he learned Spanish and Catalan and Ester learned English. They have been happily married for 22 years.

"Sometimes you just have to be all in," says Brooks (who is no relation). "You have to go beyond cold utilitarian analysis."

Brooks later became a social scientist and is now president of the American Enterprise Institute, probably the most important think tank on the American right. He has emerged as one of the most ardent defenders of the free enterprise system. But the humanist that he is, he has primarily defended capitalism on moral terms. He's criticized Republicans for defending capitalism on materialistic grounds - because it makes some people rich. Republicans, Brooks says, have an overly small-business focus. They talk as if everybody should become an entrepreneur.

The real moral health of an economic system, he argues, can be measured by how well it helps all people make an enterprise of their life. Whether they work at odd jobs or at a nongovernmental organization or at a big company, do they get to experience the joy of achievement? Do they know that their work amounts to something?

He's pointed out that the percentage of people in the world living on \$1 a day has declined by 80 percent since 1970s, adjusting for inflation. That's the greatest increase in human possibility in human history. The primary cause is globalized capitalism. But now capitalism faces its greatest moral crisis since the Great Depression. The nature of that crisis can be captured in

two statistics. When Facebook entered a deal to buy WhatsApp this week, it agreed to pay a price equal to \$345 million per WhatsApp employee. Meanwhile, the share of the economic pie for the middle 60 percent of earners nationally has fallen from 53 percent to 45 percent since 1970.

This economy produces very valuable companies with very few employees. Meanwhile, the majority of workers are not seeing income gains commensurate with their productivity levels.

This puts a strain on the essential compact that you can earn your success. As Joel Kotkin has argued, the middle class is being proletarianized, and the uneducated class is being left behind. To his great credit, Brooks is responding aggressively to this moral challenge, in a way that is providing a needed jolt to Republican circles. Over the last two days, for example, he had the Dalai Lama, a self-described Marxist, over at the American Enterprise Institute to discuss the morality of capitalism. Jonathan Haidt, of the Stern School of Business at New York University, challenged the mostly Republican audience to invent a new capitalist narrative, going beyond the simple demonization and celebration narratives.

Brooks recently published a daring piece in Commentary magazine on a conservative social justice agenda. It was called "Be Open-Handed Toward Your Brothers."

He pointed out that conservatives love to talk about private charity, but, if you took the entire \$40 billion Americans donate to human service organizations annually, it would be enough money to give each person who receives federal food assistance only \$847 per year.

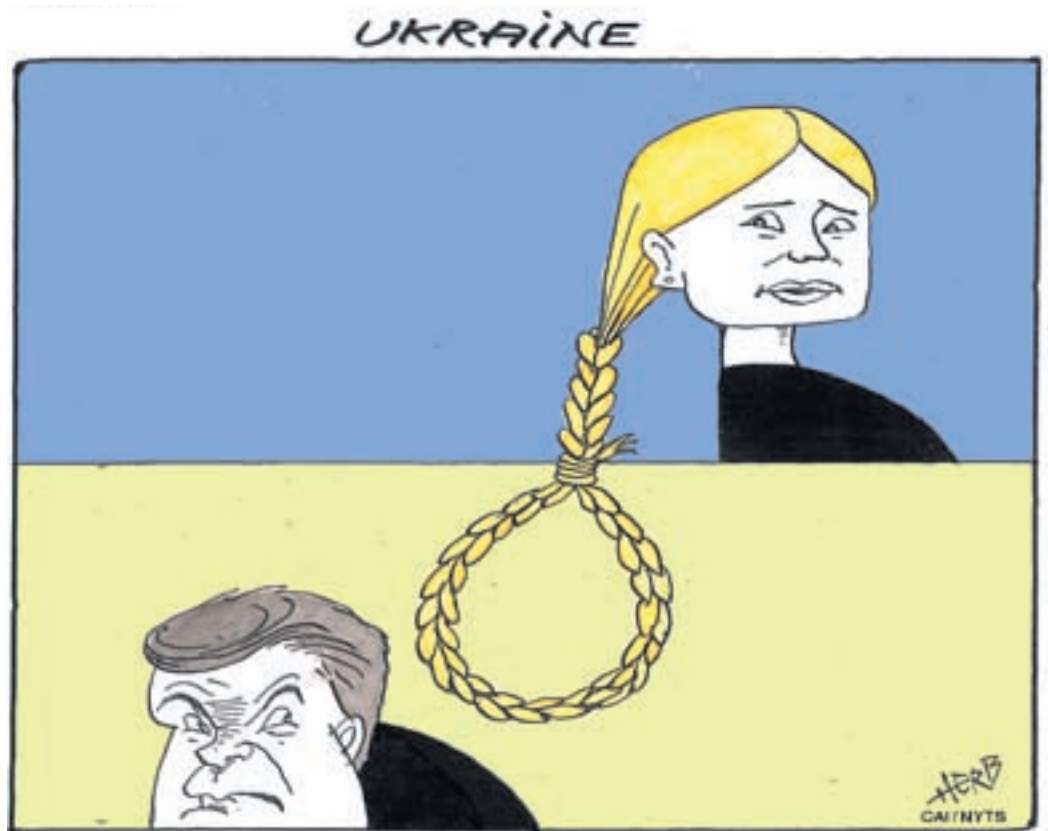
Instead, Republicans need to declare a truce on the social safety net. They need to assure the country that the net will always be there for the truly needy. Then they need to point out that it is the web of middle-class entitlements, even the home mortgage deduction, that really threaten benefits to the poor.

The big new problem, Brooks writes, is that labor markets are sick. Fewer people are working and enjoying the sense of reward that is a key to happiness. Democrats embrace a raise in the minimum wage that could drive another half-million workers out of the labor market.

Much better, he says, would be to expand the earned-income tax credit or maybe use direct payments or loans to help people move to opportunity.

The big story here is that a major pillar of the American right is leading his institution to fully embrace capitalism, but also fully embrace government policies that will help the broadest number of people earn their own success. In this era, the invisible hand may not be enough.

Sometimes you have to go all in. □



Obama And The Stimulus Tragedy



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2014 New York Times

A little more than five years have passed since President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - the "stimulus" - into law. With the passage of time, it has become clear that the act did a vast amount of good. It helped end the economy's plunge; it created or saved millions of jobs; it left behind an important legacy of public and private investment. It was also a political disaster. And the consequences of that political disaster - the perception that stimulus failed - have haunted economic policy ever since. Let's start with the good stimulus did.

The case for stimulus was that we were suffering from a huge shortfall in overall spending and that the hit to the economy from the financial crisis and the bursting of the housing bubble was so severe that the Federal Reserve, which normally fights recessions by cutting short-term interest rates, couldn't overcome this slump on its own. The idea, then, was to provide a temporary boost both by having the government directly spend more and by using tax cuts and public aid to boost family incomes, inducing more private spending. Opponents of stimulus argued vociferously that deficit spending would send interest rates skyrocketing, "crowding out" private spending. Proponents responded, however, that crowding out - a real issue when the economy is

near full employment - wouldn't happen in a deeply depressed economy, awash in excess capacity and excess savings. And stimulus supporters were right: Far from soaring, interest rates fell to historic lows.

What about positive evidence for the benefits of stimulus? That's trickier, because it's hard to disentangle the effects of the Recovery Act from all the other things that were going on at the time. Nonetheless, most careful studies have found evidence of strong positive effects on employment and output.

Even more important, I'd argue, is the huge natural experiment Europe has provided on the effects of sharp changes in government spending. You see, some but not all members of the euro area, the group of countries sharing Europe's common currency, were forced into imposing draconian fiscal austerity, that is, negative stimulus. If stimulus opponents had been right about the way the world works, these austerity programs wouldn't have had severe adverse economic effects, because cuts in government spending would have been offset by rising private spending. In fact, austerity led to nasty, in some cases catastrophic, declines in output and employment. And private spending in countries imposing harsh austerity ended up falling instead of rising, amplifying the direct effects of government cutbacks.

All the evidence, then, points to substantial positive short-run effects from the Obama stimulus. And there were surely long-term benefits, too: big investments in everything from green energy to electronic medical records.

So why does everyone - or, to be more accurate, everyone except those who have seriously studied the issue - believe that the stimulus was a failure? Because the U.S. economy continued to perform poorly - not disastrously, but poorly - after the

stimulus went into effect.

There's no mystery about why: America was coping with the legacy of a giant housing bubble. Even now, housing has only partly recovered, while consumers are still held back by the huge debts they ran up during the bubble years. And the stimulus was both too small and too short-lived to overcome that dire legacy.

This is not, by the way, a case of making excuses after the fact. Regular readers know that I was more or less tearing my hair out in early 2009, warning that the Recovery Act was inadequate - and that by falling short, the act would end up discrediting the very idea of stimulus. And so it proved.

There's a long-running debate over whether the Obama administration could have gotten more. The administration compounded the damage with excessively optimistic forecasts, based on the false premise that the economy would quickly bounce back once confidence in the financial system was restored.

But that's all water under the bridge. The important point is that U.S. fiscal policy went completely in the wrong direction after 2010. With the stimulus perceived as a failure, job creation almost disappeared from inside-the-Beltway discourse, replaced with obsessive concern over budget deficits. Government spending, which had been temporarily boosted both by the Recovery Act and by safety-net programs like food stamps and unemployment benefits, began falling, with public investment hit worst. And this anti-stimulus has destroyed millions of jobs.

In other words, the overall narrative of the stimulus is tragic. A policy initiative that was good but not good enough ended up being seen as a failure and set the stage for an immensely destructive wrong turn. □

Greek olive groves face squeeze in efficiency drive

DEREK GATOPOULOS

Associated Press

SIMIZA, Greece (AP) — In the olive groves around Ancient Olympia, sanctuary of the Greek gods, the trees were once considered sacred, and in many ways they still are. Carefully pruned and pampered, they are described by farmers with a reverence that could match the language used by makers of champagne or single malt whisky. So plans to extend a brutal efficiency drive to olive oil production have been met with anger and disbelief. If proposals from a government funded study are adopted, olive oil blended with cheaper vegetable oils will soon go on sale as part of an effort to modernize Greece's economy, which was rescued from near bankruptcy four years ago. One pro-government lawmaker called the proposal a "cause of war," while olive producers in the fabled hills of the southern Peloponnese region worry that Greece could spoil its own signature product. Illegal under current Greek law, the new product would need to prominently carry the label: "blended olive oil." EU law does not prohibit blends, which are sometimes used in canned food, including in Spain, the world's largest olive oil producer. "Greece would lose its mo-

nopoly on quality," olive grower Aris Kolotouros said. "It would create a faceless product." Kolotouros, 38, studied plant science in Italy before returning to look after the olive trees planted by his grandfather 80 years ago. His 3,000-tree grove lies in Greece's olive belt that stretches from north of Olympia — home of the original Olympic games — southward past the city of Kalamata, nestling among ancient temples and mountains that were the landmarks of Greek mythology. Mountain villages in this area didn't have electricity until the early 1970s, and older residents still remember operating horse-powered stone mills to crush olives. "I don't agree with this proposal because our effort is based on a quality product," Kolotouros said, standing next to an enormous pile of pruned olive branches. "This is our legacy." Greece is the world's No.3 olive oil producer but has been losing ground to leaders Spain and Italy where farmland is flatter and increasingly mechanized. The government commissioned the efficiency study from the Paris-based Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD,



Wild flowers cover the ground in a olive growth in Simiza, southern Greece, in February, 2014. Plans to extend a brutal efficiency drive to olive oil production have been met with anger and disbelief.
(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

and it came back with a 328-page report of detailed recommendations to change regulations for commonly used products — from books to milk. It's part of a relentless campaign to slash spending and boost competitiveness that has seen wages and benefits cut severely in a struggle to deal with decades of accumulated debt. Olive oil, the OECD recommended, should be made available for retail in larger containers, while cheaper blends should be allowed for frying and for use by low-income families. "I'm against the idea, be-

cause olive oil is totally different from other oils and it's good for you. So I don't really see the reason," said Anna Chrysafidou, 50, who runs a small grocery store in central Athens, selling olive oil from Crete and products made by small producers. "It's hard to say if consumers would go for it. Some people just buy what's on the shelf, others check. And it would depend on how it was marketed. Maybe they'd present it as some great new product." Despite six years of recession, Greeks still consume more olive oil per capita than anyone else on earth, a staggering 18 liters (4 gallons) per person each year, using up two-thirds of domestic production that averages an annual 300,000 tons, or 10 percent of the global total. A bottle of oil is seen on most Greek dinner tables, and family connections to a good rural supplier are a source of pride for dwellers of the country's overcrowded cities. Weak export branding, however, means most of Greece's surplus — much of it top-grade extra virgin oil — is pumped into container trucks and sold cheaply in bulk to nearby Italy to be bottled and branded there. At Gaea Products, a high-end olive oil exporter in Agrinio, western Greece, production manager Tha-

nasis Kerasiotis inspects operations at a bottling plant in a white coat and hairnet. He argues that allowing the sale of blended oil would undermine an effort to build stronger Greek brands with this compelling selling point: most growers operate on a small scale and can keep a closer eye on quality. "We think extra virgin olive oil has a market and can claim a larger share of (international) sales. Greece's competitive advantage compared to Spain or Italy ... is our quality," he said. "If we blend our olive oil, that advantage will be lost." Not everyone is so pessimistic. Financial analyst Vangelis Agapitos said the idea could work as long as labeling is clear, and could even help Greek companies reach markets such as China where consumers are becoming more familiar with Western goods. "We're in a situation where the market for olive oil is expanding dramatically, and I don't think the current supply of olive trees can match the additional demand for olive oil in the foreseeable future. So if that means blending it, that's not a problem providing it's properly labeled and priced," he said. "The overall message throughout these last years of crisis is that the past can no longer be a guide for future. We need to change and adapt." □



Olive mill worker Sakis Vasilopoulos fills a can of olive oil at his family business in Velanidi village, 320 kilometers (200 miles) west of Athens, in February, 2014.
(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)